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THE MAN AND THE MYTH
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Eric Cantona
MAGAZINE



Israel mourns for its children shot dead by Jordanian on the anniversary of Dunblane

Hill of Peace massacre of seven girls

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ARAB-ISRAELI tensions rose to danger point last night after a uniformed Jordanian soldier shot dead seven Jewish schoolgirls and Israeli ministers blamed King Hussein for provoking the attack with his recent criticism of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Five of the girls, all aged 12 and 13, died in a Jordanian hospital. Their bodies were taken to Israel for funerals which are expected to prompt an outpouring of national grief.

The girls had been on a school outing to Naharayim, a beauty spot in the spectacular Jordan Valley named the Hill of Peace because it is part of land handed back to Jordan when the 1994 peace treaty ended 46 years of war.

The soldier opened fire as the backs of the girls were turned towards his watchtower. One 14-year-old survivor, Hila Ivri, told of the moment they were sprayed with automatic fire. "The girls screamed and cried and ran beneath bushes to hide. Many girls were hurt and bloody. I was hit in the leg."

The shock and anger of Israelis at the attack in which six other girls were wounded, was intensified by reports that the assailant, a 26-year-old army driver, was able to fire a full clip of ammunition before being overpowered by armed colleagues standing close by.

Oxford-educated Crown Prince Hassan, who visited the scene and spoke to one of the survivors, admitted that there had been "a breakdown of management" among the soldiers. He spoke movingly of his personal "shame and anguish" and pledged a full investigation in which "justice would be served." The Prince said that it was "a black day in the history of our country."

Despite the attempts of



world statesmen, including President Clinton, to calm emotions gut reaction among many Israelis was to question the validity of the peace treaty. "Peace is not worth anything if these kinds of things happen", said Anna Ostrovsky, 13, one of the pupils at the orthodox Jewish school in the town of Beit Shemesh who was awaiting news of the dead. "I am very afraid."

At the school there were scenes reminiscent of the Dunblane massacre as chain-smoking Israeli parents clustered around the telephone, frantic for assurance that their daughters were not among the dead and wounded.

Ety Vahalani, one distraught mother, shouted into a cellular phone: "Ronit, it's mum. How are you? Talk to me. I am waiting for you."

The psychological effect of the massacre — by a man described by one survivor as "a bad guy with big eyes" — was much more explosive because it followed 48 hours after the publication of an outspoken letter from King Hussein to Mr Netanyahu saying that his policies were driving the region towards "an abyss of bloodshed and disaster."

The King's warning about possible violence to be sparked by a massive new settlement at Har Homa in occupied East Jerusalem was cited as a

possible cause by Israeli Education Minister Zevulun Hammer. He told Army radio: "Perhaps the conclusion is that the King must hold his tongue so that a soldier does not take his words to mean more than he intended."

A spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Amman, which received a flood of condolence calls from ordinary Jordanians, said that there must be a connection to the recent bitter public attacks on the attitudes and hardline policies of Mr Netanyahu. Last Sunday an outraged King Hussein slammed down the phone on the Israeli leader.

Last night before arriving back in Amman from Spain en route to a now postponed summit in Washington, Hussein defended himself. "It was fully in my responsibility to warn that we have come too far," the King told reporters. In a communique he spoke of his feelings of "shock, pain and anger" at the murders which many diplomats believe have pushed the Middle East peace process close to total collapse.

The King said that he never thought that his letter sent to Mr Netanyahu would be taken that way. He added that he felt that the peace for which he had worked for his whole life was now facing "a difficult moment."

The 61-year-old monarch, whose state of health is giving concern to officials in the current period of high Middle East tension said in an emotional condolence telephone call to Israel's President Weizman "that he considered those treacherous bullets to have been directed against him and his sons and daughters in his own home."

Hussein warning, page 15
Leading article, page 21



Israeli schoolgirls comfort each other as they wait for news of their friends, gunned down by a Jordanian soldier on the Hill of Peace

Scotland pays its tribute by candlelight

BY MAGNUS LINKLATER
GILLIAN BOWDITCH
AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE tone was low key, the ceremonies kept to a minimum. Throughout Dunblane and over all of Scotland yesterday, the anniversary of the massacre on March 13 last year was marked by small but poignant tributes to the 10 children and their teacher who died at the hands of the gunman Thomas Hamilton.

The simplest gesture was the most moving: across the country, from the Outer Hebrides to the Borders, candles were lit at precisely 7pm. They flickered from the windows of houses, in church naves, school classrooms, and even office canteens. Many of them were lit by children. In Inverness Cathedral, a single can-

dle burned. In isolated crofts on Lewis and Harris, they could be seen from across dark moorland.

In Dunblane there was special meaning in the candle lit by Alison Curry, 28, and her son Ryan Liddell, 6, one of the children injured that morning when Hamilton walked into the gymnasium at Dunblane Primary School and opened fire with his deadly arsenal of handguns.

"I think all of the parents of the survivors feel guilty when we think how we've still got our kids while other families haven't," Mrs Curry said. "Dunblane is so small, you often bump into one of the bereaved parents in the supermarket. It's so hard to know what to say... the candle is to show that we still remember and probably always will."

At the school, where, a year before, agonised parents had waited to hear whether their children were alive or dead, the accent was on normality. Ron Taylor, the headmaster, in consultation with parents, had decided that the doors should open, but 90 minutes later than usual, to allow parents to pay their own tributes.

Police were on guard outside as the parents arrived in small groups, some with wreaths, others carrying single red roses to lay on the open site where the gymnasium now razed to the ground, had stood. They were met by Mr Taylor, who had been one of the first on the scene, who, with his staff, has held the school together since.

"Our school will recover," he said in a television interview. He was looking to the future with optimism, but admitted that he was no closer to understanding the depth of evil which had torn so many lives apart a year ago.

"It hardly seems like a year to us at the school," he added. "The events of that day, clearly the worst of our lives, are still with us. The images are very vivid. I have a very vivid visual memory. The trauma and the emotion have not left us."

As for memories of Thomas Hamilton himself, they were kept firmly in the background. "Recently, I have thought less about evil," said Mr Taylor. "We have no emotional energy left to think about him or give him the time of day. I cannot understand any better today than I did then the depth of evil and the calculated way he went about the events of that day."

When the school opened for normal classes at 10.30 pupils trickled through the gate. But

Continued on page 2, col 4

Billie-Jo arrest

The foster father of Billie-Jo Jenkins was last night arrested by detectives investigating her murder. Sion Jenkins, 39, was detained in custody overnight at Hastings police station, east Sussex. Billie-Jo, 13, was killed in the garden of the family home.

Kohl caves in

Jubilant miners whistled and sounded hooters to celebrate a climbdown by Helmut Kohl who, after a week of tough street protests, has agreed to stop mass lay-offs in the coal industry for the next seven years. Page 12

Breaking The Times overcast:
Austria Sch 40; Belgium 5 Pts 80;
Canada 25.50; Denmark 18.00;
France 11.00; Germany 14.00;
Greece 15.00; Italy 1.40;
Japan 1.40; Luxembourg 1.40;
Netherlands 1.40; Norway 1.40;
Portugal 1.40; Spain 1.40;
Sweden 1.40; Switzerland 1.40;
USA 1.40; Tunisia 1.40; USA 1.40.

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



Anti-euro cash offer lures MPs

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO former Cabinet ministers joined a stampede of Tory MPs yesterday for donations from a millionaire businessman who has pledged financial support to candidates opposed to a single currency. John Redwood, who challenged John Major for the Tory leadership, Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, and David Heathcoat-Amory, who resigned as Paymaster General to oppose the euro, were among the first in the queue yesterday. Two unnamed serving ministers are also reported to have expressed an interest along with Iain Duncan-Smith, the MP for Chingford and a leading Euro-sceptic.

Within 24 hours of the announcement of the £500,000 fighting fund being set up by Paul Sykes, 53, one of Britain's 100 richest men, requests had been received from 28 Conservative associations. They are still pouring in. Mr Sykes hopes to get up to 150 candidates to support the cause.

The revelation comes as a survey by The Times, of the

Continued on page 2, col 1

Labour plans to lift Armed Forces bar on homosexuals

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership has made a decisive shift towards lifting the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces in spite of opposition from the service chiefs.

In an interview in The Pink Paper, a journal for homosexuals, Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, says: "We believe that servicemen and women should not be discharged on the basis that they are lesbian or gay."

An incoming Labour government will consult service chiefs on how to implement the change. "But the ban is unfair and it will go," he says.

The statement by Mr Straw has gone further than the pronouncements from David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary. Sources close to Dr Clark have made clear that Labour regards the ban as unfair and they would work towards a swift abolition.

Mr Straw's commitment comes on the day that the High Court accepted that the ban might be in breach of European Union law. The court agreed that Terry Perkins, who was dismissed from his post as a Navy medical

assistant because of his sexuality, could challenge the ruling at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. If Mr Perkins, 28, wins his case the British taxpayer could face a multi-million pound compensation bill.

A further 30 cases are in the pipeline and more could follow. Up to 2,000 men and women have been discharged from the Armed Forces because of their sexuality in the last 20 years.

A Shadow Cabinet source said last night that Labour MPs would be given a free

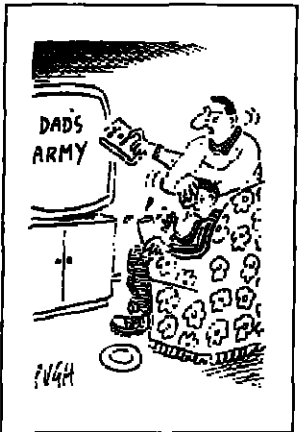
vote on the issue when the right legislative opportunity arose in the lifetime of a first Labour government. However, it would not be in the first year of a Tony Blair administration.

In the three years since the Clinton Administration adopted its "don't ask, don't tell" policy, the Pentagon has discharged more homosexuals from the American military than before it came into effect (Tom Rhodes writes).

At best the policy has been deemed a shaky compromise to please both the liberal tendencies of President Clinton and the more conservative views of the Pentagon and his opponents in Congress.

Mr Clinton had campaigned for office on the back of a controversial crusade to end the ban on homosexuals in the armed services. Under the terms of the don't ask, don't tell provisions, proven homosexual conduct still remains a ground for dismissal. But the policy includes guidelines to commanders on when to initiate inquiries.

Court to rule, page 9



Britons flee Albania in joint rescue

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

DIPLOMATIC sources said last night that 400 Westerners — 50 said to be British — have been evacuated from Albania in a joint operation between the British, American and Italian embassies.

They were taken from Tirana to the rebel-held port of Durres by minibus, and then to an Italian warship by helicopter, Italian sources said.

An RAF and Royal Navy rescue operation was on stand-by. Two destroyers, HMS Exeter and HMS Birmingham, on patrol in the Mediterranean, were ordered to steam closer to the Albanian coast, and three RAF Hercules transport aircraft took off from Lyneham in Wiltshire to be ready for a rescue.

The Americans landed military helicopters in Tirana for an operation that "could take days", said a US official. A British plan to use Tirana airport was abandoned as gunfire increased around the runways and all commercial flights were cancelled.

Berisha clings on, page 17
Photograph, page 24



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JR LIFE

10 TO PRESS

We're proud of our TV directors

George would not appeal to every taste. They could rename it "rucking".

Throughout Treasury Questions, the Prince of Euseptic Darkness remained silent, a thin smile playing on his leathery lips. It was evident as David Atkinson (Con, Bourne-mouth E) rose with a question about the single currency.

Every Parliament needs one techno-nerd, to represent the techno-nerds in the general population. Atkinson is that man. In the eighties, he was leading adjournment debates on space travel. Now he has

switched to hitch-hiking on the internet.

So why a Question on monetary union? What troubled him? Prospects for a single currency in 1999? No, Mr Atkinson was worried about prospects for computer systems in 1999. Were single currency computers "millennium-compliant"?

Kenneth Clarke, whose more urgent concern is whether Tory Government is millennium-compliant, made a none-too-convincing stab at taking Mr Atkinson's inquiry seriously. This, he implied,

MATTHE
POLITICAL

was one of many questions about monetary union in 1999, not least whether it would happen.

David Winnick (Lab, Wallall N), an Opposition spokesman, bit. Would Mr Clarke include Sir George in EU discussions?

As Mr Clarke parried, I watched the terror on the face of the Financial Secretary

PARRIS
SKETCH



Michael Jack, who had been sitting beside the space that the Chancellor had left empty by rising.

At the far end of the bench, the arrival of the Chief Whip — no mean bottom — had forced everyone to shuffle one place to their left, pushing Mr Jack on to Mr Clarke's space.

Mr Jack was afraid that when Mr Clarke sat, it would

be on him. Surely this did not happen. We could not test the hypothesis that Mr Clarke would not notice if he sat on someone.

Next, the Prime Minister arrived. Eurosceptic Norman Lamont had arrived, too. So had Hugh Dykes (C, Harrow E), a swivel-eyed happy-clappy Europhile, Jacques Santer's vicar on Earth. Europhobe Sir George Gardiner stayed.

Both Lamont and Gardiner began leaping up to catch the Speaker's eye and question the Premier. So did Mr Dykes.

In *No Exit*, Jean-Paul Sartre suggests, as a metaphor for Hades, a room containing a small number of people calculated to annoy each other, and no escape — ever.

For Mr Major yesterday the Tory benches at PM's Questions were a sort of Sartrean Hell.

Still, when Sir George complained (to cries of "what about Goldsmith?") that too much was spent promoting the EU, Major counter-attacked crisply. He understood

of money available to both sides" of this argument.

As I left, the House Leader Tony Newton was promising the "Birds (Registration Charges) Bill — remaining stages".

Have you noticed how the Government always slips its most controversial proposals into routine business? What can this Bill mean? Do birds now have to register as birds — "sparrow: male"? Or will Tony ministers have to hand in their little black books to the Chief Whip?

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

egists is the suggestion that the Conservative campaign so far has misfired. Only 3 per cent said it had increased their support for the party, compared to 15 per cent for Labour. Nearly one in five respondents said the Tory campaign had turned them against the party.

In a further sign of pre-election nerves, it emerged last night that the Tory communications director had written to all Conservative MPs warning them about damaging news-paper surveys. Charles Lewington's leaked letter said that three papers were conducting

surveys of MPs and constituency chairmen "in the hope of producing unhelpful stories about the state of party morale". He asks for their support, in either ignoring the calls or "answering the questions helpfully".

There were indications at Westminster yesterday that the business managers hope to have the Commons up before Easter, although the formal dissolution will come in April. One casualty could be Michael Howard's crime Bill with its plan to impose minimum sentences for persistent burglars and drug traffickers. Mr Howard wants to reverse a Lords defeat which he believes weakened the measure. After the election is called, business by convention only goes through by agreement between the two benches. Mr Howard will be certain to turn Labour's opposition into an election issue if the Bill falls.

After Major, page 19
Matthew Parris and
Phin Howard, page 20

MIKE GRAMES

Joan Bedford, sister of the murdered Dunblane teacher Gwen Mayor, pays tribute at a school in Manchester yesterday

Continued from page 1
90 children stayed away, kept at home by their parents.
The world's media, which had besieged the town a year ago, respected the specific

Primary school, Alloa, which is ten miles from Dunblane, demanding to be allowed to take their children home.

Elsewhere in Scotland tributes were paid in churches, primary school, homes and offices. Many of the candles were lit by children. Church services of remembrance were held in Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness, Edinburgh and Glasgow. In Inver-

ness Cathedral a single candle was lit. There was no service in Dunblane Cathedral but a steady trickle of visitors braved the rain and wind to offer silent prayers.

In a sombre House of Commons, the Prime Minister and Labour Leader Tony Blair put aside their political differences as they did a year ago when visiting Dunblane to remember the dead. "We re-

member: the little ones that died, we grieve with their parents and their friends and they will not be lost in the memory of this nation." Mr Blair said.

He told the Prime Minister: "Whatever our differences are, we are united again this time in sorrow and commemoration of those that died."

Mr Major said the Opposition Leader had spoken for everyone in the Commons and for millions beyond it.

Last night the Prime Minister and Mrs Major lit a candle in the window of 10 Downing Street to mark the anniversary.

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

horities and trusts we expected to match the overall NHS efficiency target of 2.7 per cent.

NHS management costs, as defined by the Audit Commission, cover the salaries of managers, including clinical managers, and staff in areas such as finance, contracting and personnel.

Labour countered by releasing figures showing that £2.5 billion a year was being spent on the "NHS bureaucrats' pay bill". Salary costs of managers and administrative staff had doubled since 1989-90 when they stood at £1.2 billion, the party said. In current prices this meant an extra £394 million was being spent on management salaries.

❑ **Disincentivising at the elder end** Another appropriate way of rationing scarce NHS resources, a leading health economist has said.

Older people should be prepared to accept the inevitability of death and recognise that they have had a "good innings" and the young have a

greater right to medical care. Alan Williams of the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York said.

Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, Professor Williams, 69, said that too much emphasis is placed on high-tech treatments to save life when what the elderly really need are unglamorous measures to improve mobility and their capacity to look after themselves.

"This attempt to wring the last drop of medical benefit out of the system, no matter what the human and material costs, is not the hallmark of a humane society. In each of our lives there has come a time when we accept ... that a reasonable limit has to be set on the demands we can properly make on our fellow citizens ... in order to keep us going a bit longer," he said.

Professor Williams says that benefits to young people should not take absolute priority over benefits to old people but they should be given more weight.

BY AUDREY MAGEE

A SOLDIER was being treated in a Belfast hospital yesterday after being injured in a suspected IRA attack on a security force patrol in the north of the city.

The 22-year-old, a member of the 2nd Battalion Royal Tank Regiment, was injured in the arm when a homemade rocket was fired at his armoured Land-Rover. The force of the blast blew the armour off the side of the vehicle.

The device was fired at the joint Army and police patrol as it passed down Etna Drive in the Rathfriland area. The rocket, containing 12lb of Semtex — is believed to have been launched by IRA terrorists hiding in a house or alleyway at the side of the road. The entire area was sealed off yesterday and a number of people were arrested.

The attack comes a month after the murder of Lance Bombardier Stephen Besswick.

John Hume yesterday played down suggestions that he might succeed Mary Robinson as the Irish President. The leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party is bookies' favourite to succeed Mrs Robinson, who has announced that she will not seek a second term.

Mr Hume is eligible to stand despite being a British MP and a resident of Northern Ireland. He told Irish radio that he had not been consulted about the presidency. "I am concentrating on the job I am in public life to do, which is to do everything in my power, together with my colleagues, to bring about lasting peace and lasting stability."

Albert Reynolds, the former Irish Prime Minister, and the poet Seamus Heaney were also being tipped for the presidency. Mrs Robinson is seeking the job of UN Commissioner for Human Rights. According to Dublin sources, Mrs Robinson yesterday asked John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, to raise the matter of her candidacy with President Clinton when he visits the White House on Monday. She requires the backing of the five permanent members of the UN Council.

The Government is to review laws which allowed the Official Solicitor to sell film rights to archive material on mass-murderer Fred West. The review, announced yesterday by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, follows the decision of the Official Solicitor, Peter Harris, which provoked public outrage and complaints from the West family. Lord Mackay has appointed Professor Gareth Jones, QC, to examine the case for preventing families profiteering from the crimes of relatives.

Channel 5 has won the go-ahead to begin broadcasting on March 30 after the Independent Television Commission said it was satisfied that the station's retuning programme was on target. The commission said it was confident that at least 90 per cent of homes that could suffer interference from the Channel 5 signal had been retuned or had had interference eliminated from their equipment. Once programmes start the station is obliged to retune any televisions suffering interference for a further three months.

Walter Swinburn, the jockey, appeared in court in Newmarket yesterday charged with assault and smashing a glass door at an Italian restaurant. Swinburn, 35, had the case against him adjourned for a fortnight by magistrates. The triple Derby winner was arrested after an incident at the Il Piccolo Mondo restaurant in Newmarket in January. Swinburn, who runs a stud with his parents at Wickhambrook, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, was at the restaurant only days after ending a £100,000 charity walk.

Gillian Shephard confirmed that teachers are to get a 3.3 per cent pay rise this year as recommended by their pay review body. The Education Secretary said in a written Commons reply that teachers will receive 2 per cent from April 1 with the remaining 1.7 per cent from December 1. The award was being made in two stages to accommodate costs within spending plans and because staging reflected the Government's view that settlements should be lower this year, Mrs Shephard said.

Michael Howard will today announce plans to restrict the right of those on trial for rape to cross-question their alleged victims in court. The Home Secretary's move follows the ordeal of a woman who was cross-examined for six days by her attacker. Judges would be given the power to restrict the right of alleged rapists to conduct their own defence. They would be given discretion to order defendants in rape cases to be represented by barristers. The Government believes there is widespread support for the move.

The £40 million cost of hiring City firms to advise on the sale of train passenger franchises during the privatisation of British Rail was criticised yesterday by the all party Public Accounts Committee. The watchdog said it was concerned that they had been appointed "without competition" and that no upper limit had been set for the cost of fees for the first franchisees. Fees to their legal advisers, Linklaters & Paines, totalled £13 million, and those to the financial advisers, HSBC Samuel Montagu, £5.9 million.

Regrets I

Regrets I

Stagg's wife jailed for assault on police

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Continued from page 1

executive of the 1922 committee of 17 MPs, shows that more than half will use their personal manifestos to defy the Cabinet's wait-and-see policy on the single currency.

The findings come only weeks after Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, appeared in vain at a meeting of the committee for backbenchers not to defy government policy.

John Townend, the MP for Bridlington and a member of the executive, said last night: "I understand my association will be entitled to £1,500 from Mr Sykes. We will be delighted to accept it. I do not believe in looking a gift-horse in the mouth."

Mr Heathcoat-Amory, the MP for Wells, said: "It is perfectly in order for Mr Sykes to put his money behind his political beliefs. I will discuss it with my constituency chair-

man but I am sure we will accept his generous offer." The caveat by Mr Sykes, who owns 40 per cent of the Meadowhall shopping centre near Sheffield, has upset the Tory high command. But no Tory officials dare publicly criticise Mr Sykes, a self-made millionaire, who is the son of a Yorkshire miner. Last year he gave more than £200,000 to Conservative Central Office. He has given more than £1 million in the last 20 years.

Mr Sykes, whose political hero is Baroness Thatcher, was delighted by the response to his offer. "I am £500,000 to the bank. But I have prepared to write an open cheque," he added. "This will help the Tories, not hinder them."

His intervention comes after the Prime Minister's recent plea at the Welsh Tory Party conference for candidates to back the Cabinet's policy on the euro.

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'We eight have been portrayed as having identical opinions. That is absolute rubbish'

We're not ashamed of our views, say TV dinner guests

By ADRIAN LEE AND CAROL MIDGLEY

GUESTS at a dinner-party who appeared in a Channel 4 documentary portraying them as right-wing bigots defended their views yesterday and said they were astonished at the media rumpus.

Speaking at a Suffolk pub, George Coleman, Bill Vaudrey and Henry Erskine-Hill said they were not ashamed of the opinions they had expressed on blacks, homosexuality and unemployment because "the majority of people in this country think the same way".

Mr Erskine-Hill, 44, an old Etonian petrol station manager, denied that he was a racist. He had "one or two Asian friends", he said, and "found them delightful", but had had "one or two experiences with the black community which have not always run smoothly".

Bridget Wells-Furby and her husband Richard appeared to be having more regrets. "I am not extreme", protested Mrs Wells-Furby, who runs a restaurant, "I would describe myself as an old-fashioned Whig".

Eight friends agreed to be filmed for *The Dinner Party*—to be screened on March 24. Some are quoted as saying that "queers" should not be al-

lowed in the Army and that Africans are always taking handouts.

At The Railway in Framlingham yesterday, it emerged that *The Dinner Party*, filmed by Paul Watson, was in fact two dinner parties, lasting four hours each. The guests said that they had been asked to wear the same clothes and eat the same food and wine on each occasion—paid for by Channel 4. The film is due to be screened on March 24.

They said that they were given topics of discussion, including Europe, law and order, education, and John Major. Watson intervened if



Suffolk village where dinners took place

they strayed from political issues, they said.

"He kept coming in and saying, 'I've not heard enough about the dangers of new Labour,'" said Mr Vaudrey, 41, an unemployed businessman who answered a newspaper advertisement to appear in the programme and drew up the guest list. He and his wife, Judy, 39, hosted the dinner party at the farmhouse where her father, Tony, lives. Mrs Vaudrey, a professional cook, prepared the food.

George Coleman, 50, the landlord of The Railway, said: "We do feel a bit set up, but we will watch the film. I don't like being called intellectually impoverished as we were described in the papers. We are deep thinkers."

The guests were paid £100 each to appear and Channel 4 met the cost of all the food and drink. But money was not a motivation. "Lord, no—we did it for the experience," said Mr Vaudrey. The eight had known each other socially for several years but had not previously dined together. The guest list was designed to represent the man in the street.

He said all eight had been "overwhelmed" by the fuss over their remarks. "The sad



Bill Vaudrey, George Coleman and Henry Erskine-Hill at The Railway pub in Framlingham yesterday. They said that they had been "set up"

fact is that we live in a rather isolated corner of Suffolk. We live rather mundane lives."

Mr Erskine-Hill believed that the group "rightly or wrongly spoke for a lot of people" but fears that "we could be made buffoons of when the tape was edited to the 53 minutes to be broadcast."

"I think they were looking for us to trip ourselves up," Mr Erskine-Hill said. He had had the impression that the programme-makers wanted the guests to get drunk. The three men did not think they had drunk to excess as most of the guests had to get up early in the morning.

Despite their fears, the three friends said yesterday morning that they had no plans to try to stop the programme. Accompanied by their lawyer, Mr Erskine-Hill said: "I think we were slightly naive in our expectations."

Mr Coleman, said: "We are treating this as trivia as it was supposed to be. I hope when the film comes out we will be seen in a sympathetic light but I do feel we have been stitched up. I feel they [Channel 4] took advantage of the situation."

He was particularly angered by remarks by Mr Watson that the group showed a "poverty of intellect". Mr Er-

skine-Hill and Mr Vaudrey rejected suggestions by Mr Watson that they were "dyed-in-the-wool" Tories.

"I have never voted Conservative," said Mr Erskine-Hill. "I usually vote down the middle. Last time I voted for the Natural Law Party."

Mr Coleman did confess to thinking John Major "the best thing since sliced bread" and being a life-long Conservative but Mr Vaudrey said: "I have voted Conservative in the past but I will be voting for the Referendum Party."

All three denied that they disliked homosexuals. They were, Mr Coleman, said, "as

much a part of society as serial murderers".

Mrs Wells-Furby, 35, who arrived at the pub later, said: "I am not a racist. I am not a beggar-basher. I am not homophobic. I did not say anything that I do not believe in but I am worried it will be taken out of context."

Mrs Wells Furby, who holds a PhD in medieval history and has small children, said she was a Conservative voter although not impressed by the current Government. She issued a statement on behalf of her husband Richard, 32, an insurance broker at Lloyds. He said: "I

am not a homophobic. I am not racist. Paul Watson was doing his job."

Mrs Wells Furby said: "We have been portrayed as eight guests with identical views. That is absolute rubbish."

Another guest, Jon Goddard, a musician who composed the music for the documentary, was anxious not to be portrayed as a rightwinger.

He described himself as a "floating, doubting and typically torn" voter who was disappointed after 18 years of Tory rule. He voted Conservative at the last election but regretted it six months later.

Regrets linger long after documentary makers have cried 'Cut'

By CAROL MIDGLEY

DOCUMENTARY history is littered with volunteers who have lived to regret revealing their lives to a fly-on-the-wall camera. Members of the public, seduced by the idea of fame, often complain later that they have been misrepresented and "stitched up".

Noeline Baker, a Sydney housewife who achieved notoriety in the BBC documentary *Sylvia Waters*, said that she was driven to the verge of suicide by the finished product. She complained that she had been portrayed as a materialistic matri-

arch, and that her partner, Laurie Donaher, and their children were made to appear loud-mouthed bigots. The maker of that documentary, Paul Watson, also made *The Dinner Party*.

Ms Baker flew to Britain to defend herself after the series was shown. "I had been proud to be chosen with my family as representatives of Australian life to show Britain," she said. "Not for one moment did any of us think this was how they were going to see us. The editing was cruel and vicious. I was betrayed."

There were protests from some of the participants in *The Fishing*

Party, another Watson film. It followed a group of City brokers on a fishing trip, and there was a flood of complaints to the RSPCA after one was seen shooting a seagull with a shotgun. He was later fined £680 by a court.

Not everyone is left with only bad memories. Marc and Karen Adams-Jones were filmed in the run-up to their wedding for Desmond Wilson's documentary *The Marriage* in 1986. The BBC film led to an argument between the couple when the camera caught Mr Adams-Jones with a former girlfriend during a rugby trip. The couple were not, however,

unhappy with the way they were portrayed in general.

"We were very naive at first," said Mrs Adams-Jones, now a mother of four. "We were very honest and open with each other and the film crew. The cameras faded into the background if you live with them for a year. You think of them as your friends."

Roger Graef, a documentary maker whose credits include *Police*, said yesterday: "Fly-on-the-wall can be misused. There are people who use it as a short cut or even as a trap, but it means all. It depends on the trust you set up between yourself and the

subject. Although we don't give our subjects editorial control, we show them the film before transmission and they retain the right to correct inaccuracies or edit personal secrets. We always take that seriously."

"I want to empower people with my films, not incapacitate them. But you should not shoot the messenger if you don't like the message."

Watson's first fly-on-the-wall documentary was *The Family* in 1974. It followed the fortunes of the Wilkins family of Reading, who became overnight celebrities, but complained of "living in a goldfish bowl".



Caught on film: Noeline Baker and Laurie Donaher

Stagg's wife jailed for assault on police

By TIM JONES

THE wife of the man cleared of the murder of Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common was jailed for two months yesterday for assaulting two police officers.

Southwest Magistrates' Court was told that Diane Stagg, 28, had been returning to the couple's flat in Roehampton, southwest London, to patch up her turbulent relationship with her husband, Colin. She discovered a crowd of onlookers outside her home, where her husband was being arrested for alleged criminal damage, and began swearing and hurling abuse at the officers. She ignored their warnings to calm down and lashed out with her arms and feet as they arrested her.

The officers, who received minor bruises during the incident, wrestled her to the ground before handcuffing her arms behind her back. Ian Ryan, for the defence, said that, when the incident occurred in January, she had been under extraordinary pressure because of her husband's notoriety. The couple married in 1995, 11 months after Mr Stagg's acquittal, and she had been tarred with the same brush.

She was, he told the court, a victim of abusive letters and telephone calls and was subjected to taunts, insults and occasional violence whenever she went out. Because of the continued abuse and media attention, Mr Ryan said, she was taking Valium, developed a drinking problem and suffered from agoraphobia.

Passing sentence, David Voelcker, the magistrate, said he appreciated that she had difficulties, but said that police officers were entitled to do their job without being assaulted. She was given two months' imprisonment for each of two charges of assault with no additional sentence for a public order offence. She is expected to appeal.

Speaking after the case, Mr Stagg said: "I am gutted. I feel it is all my fault and I only wish I could do the time for her."

Lawyers send £12,000 bill for colleague's suicide

By ROBIN YOUNG

YOUR SON HAS BEEN FOUND DEAD. THAT WILL BE £150.

TIME was money at a busy law firm. When one of its solicitors hanged himself because of pressure of work, his elderly mother was sent a bill for more than £12,000 for the time spent dealing with his death.

The bill included £1,350 for going to Christopher Bryant's home when he did not turn up for work, getting the police to break in and finding him hanged. There was also £150 for going to tell his 80-year-old mother that he was dead.

Identifying the body at the mortuary and giving a statement to the police was priced at £300. Searching his office to sort out affairs such as his will was a further £750 and £5,799.50 was charged for

writing 172 letters and receiving 64.

The bill from James Beauchamp solicitors, in Edgbaston, Birmingham, was reduced by three quarters after the dead man's family complained to the Office of Supervision of Solicitors, and

giving statement to the police and dealing with further matters. £300."

Attending upon the Coroner's Office for identification of the body, giving statement to the police and dealing with further matters. £300."

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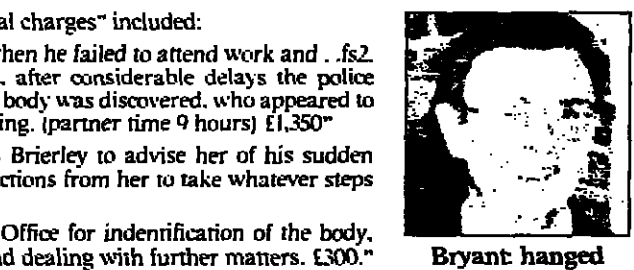
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Bryant hanged

yesterday the firm agreed to waive the bill entirely "in view of the distress of Christopher's family". It rejected any suggestion of acting improperly.

However, the dead man's widowed mother, Irene Brierley, 80, said: "The bill was a terrible thing and I hope the

man who did it will feel embarrassed now it has come out. I was very, very upset that my son had died. He was a brilliant man and a brilliant solicitor."

Mr Bryant's sister, Melanie Weerdmeester, 45, of Snitterfield, Warwickshire, said: "If

somebody at work dies, then you sort out their affairs. You do not send an 80-year-old woman the bill for doing it. The one that really upsets me is £150 to knock on my mother's door to say: 'Your son is dead.' He put blood, sweat and tears into that firm, and to think they have done this is incredible."

The body of Mr Bryant, 54, a property solicitor, was found by a colleague, John Westall, on November 18, 1994. An inquest reached a verdict of suicide after being told that he had been a workaholic who suffered from "white-collar stress".

Mrs Weerdmeester, a retired sales manager, said: "Christopher was incredibly professional. He used to go to work on Bank Holidays and

never took a holiday. He used to go to work at 7am and work long hours. He was a very honourable person."

Their mother, of Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire, was sent an invoice in November last year for a total of £12,278.16. It included £750 for attending the inquest.

Mrs Weerdmeester's probate lawyer at the firm of Harfield-Pickering in Redditch contacted the Law Society on her behalf. The firm confirmed yesterday that the Office of Supervision of Solicitors had been contacted, and James Beauchamp had agreed to reduce the bill to £2,412 plus VAT. Last night the payment was waived.

David Waterhouse, senior partner at Mr Bryant's employers, said: "James

Beauchamp solicitors reject any suggestion that they acted in an improper way in respect of the death of a highly regarded and valued employee and the administration of his estate. However, in view of the distress of Christopher's family, the outstanding payment from his estate will not be sought."

David McNeill, of the Law Society in London, said: "I have never heard of a case like this before. It has certainly raised a few eyebrows here. The Office of Supervision of Solicitors, when reviewing the bill for a remuneration certificate, have reduced it by 75 per cent, which is very substantial reduction indeed. I have to say that most firms, when a solicitor dies, would not think of levying any charges."

Shrimps chalk up white cliffs victory

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE White Cliffs of Dover have a secret past which patriots may wish to ignore. The symbol of England turns out to be little more than a mountain of shrimp droppings.

The chalk that makes up the cliffs and lies under much of Britain has a purity and whiteness that has always been a puzzle. Says a booklet linked to a BBC television programme to be broadcast on Sunday, *Postcard from the Past*.

The chalk is made up of billions and billions of tiny fragments of calcareous algae that appear to have sunk to the seabed like a long snow-fall. But the algae are too small to fall and settle—so how did the chalk form?

According to Anna Grayson, the geologist presenting the programme, it was the result of the algae being eaten by microscopic shrimps called copepods. The indigestible chalky bits were passed through the shrimps' digestive systems unchanged, forming solid lumps of excrement which were heavy enough to settle quickly on the seabed. Subsequently the deposits were exposed and

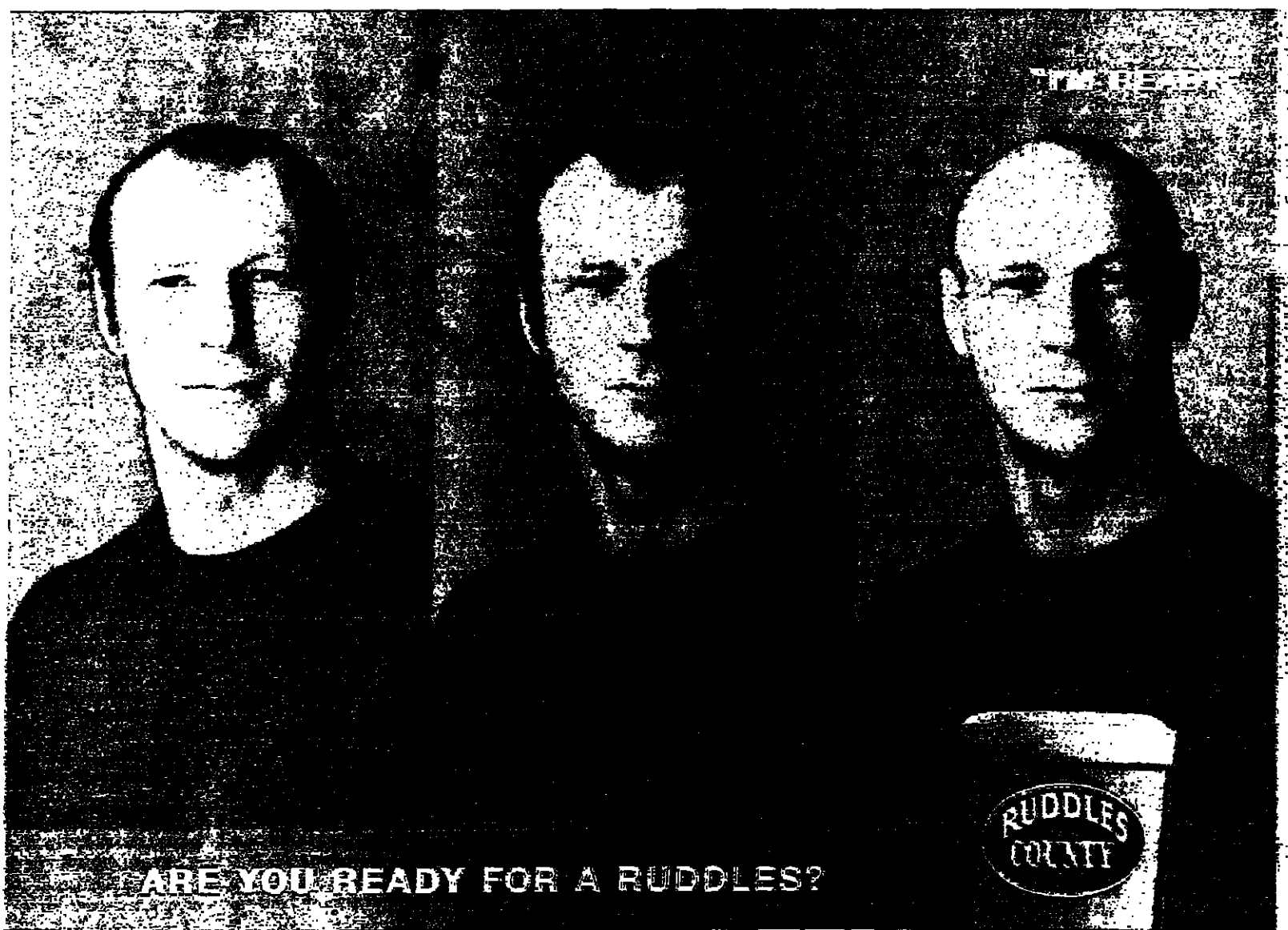
formed the cliffs along the South Coast when sea levels rose at the end of the Ice Ages, cutting off Britain and France and leaving the cliffs as a symbol of Britain's isolation.

Ms Grayson said that she was amazed when she heard how the cliffs had been formed. "Now when I see the cliffs from a cross-Channel ferry, I don't feel sentimental. The main emotion I feel is one of cynical amusement."

Tests at Edinburgh University support the theory that there was life on Mars. They show that the carbonate globules in a meteorite that landed on Earth from the planet had formed at low temperatures, compatible with life.

After scientists from Nasa, the American space agency, suggested the theory last August, critics asserted that carbonate particles found in the meteorite were not evidence of life because they had formed at high temperatures.

Dr John Valley, of the University of Wisconsin, and colleagues, including Dr Colin Graham of the University of Edinburgh, report in *Science* that detailed study of the carbonates disproves the criticism.



Parents place School girls who car crash

By PAUL WILKINSON

PUPILS and staff at a state school were mourning the death of a bright girl who had been expected to go to university.

Samantha Jennings, 15, died in a car crash on her way to school yesterday.

Her mother, Mrs. Jennings, said: "It was a lunch-break accident. Their car veered across the lane and hit the wall after hitting a tree."

Yesterday, pupils at Haverhill Primary School, Northampton, attended a special assembly to mark the death of Claire, who was 11 years old.

Julia Jennings, Claire's mother, said: "It was a terrible day for all of us. Claire was a very bright girl and a very kind person."

Mr. Jennings said: "We are all very sad to hear of the death of a young girl. We are all very sad to hear of the death of a young girl."

While the school is a primary school, it has 1,000 pupils and 100 teachers. It is a very busy school and the pupils are very happy to go to school. The school is a very good school and the pupils are very happy to go to school.

Cheers in court judges save the

TWO law lords yesterday as they heard the appeal of an "rave" community. The judge praised its members for being a "marvellous lot" and saving a derelict farm.

Seventy members of the Exodus Collective, a nine-acre Longmeadow farm at Chilton, four miles from London, were squeezed into the Court of Appeal to hear the appeal of Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Hirst.

"Are they bringing pigs with them?" Lord Justice Hirst joked. "We are going to have a livestock show this morning?" That was a disappointment.

The founders of the collective arrived at the farm five years ago and have since restored the property to a more rural and peaceful lifestyle. However, the possession order was granted to the Department of the Environment.

WHEN THE THOMAS MOVED HOME SOMETHING BEH

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Parents place flowers at accident site as head pays tribute to 'four of our brightest and best students'

School grieves for girls who died in car crash blaze

By PAUL WILKINSON

PUPILS and staff at a leading state school were yesterday mourning four of their brightest A-level students. Three were prefects and all had been expecting to go to university.

Samantha Brearley, 18, Jocelyn Bancroft, 17, Claire Jennings, 18, and Emma Freear, 18, died during a lunch-break excursion when their car veered off a country lane and burst into flames after hitting a tree.

Yesterday the 410 sixth-formers at Harrogate Grammar School, North Yorkshire, attended a special assembly in tribute to the girls led by Kevin McAleese, the headmaster. Claire's parents, Ivor and Juliet Jennings, and her brother laid a posy of spring flowers at the crash scene.

Mr McAleese said after the assembly: "The school is facing the greatest tragedy in its history. We are trying to cope with the loss of four of our brightest and best students."

While he spoke to the sixth-formers, the rest of the 1,600 pupils heard a statement from him read by their year tutors, "explaining the sorrow we all feel at the loss."

The car, driven by Samantha, had been a present



Claire Jennings: role in operatic society show

for her and her 17-year-old brother, Ben, also a sixth-former at the school, from their parents. Yesterday her mother, Janet, 48, said: "She was a good driver, very steady, and was not one to take risks. She did not drink and did not drive fast. I can only put it down to a freak occurrence which can't be explained. I feel so sorry for all the other mothers and fathers who have lost their daughters in this terrible accident. It is an awful day for everyone."

Samantha, a prefect described by staff as "a pleasure to teach", was studying Eng-

lish literature, French and theatre studies, and planned to go to Hull University to take triple honours in modern languages and theatre studies.

Jocelyn was described by Mr McAleese as "a very bright, outgoing student" who was studying geography, mathematics and history and planned to read business studies at university. She was a prefect and a member of the Guides. Her mother, Lindsay Bancroft, said: "She had a bright future ahead of her. She was all sorted out on going to Humber University. She was a very clever girl and we and her younger sister are absolutely devastated."

Emma's father, Stephen Freear, 47, said: "Emma had everything to live for. She was doing A levels in theatre studies, history and English, and had won a place to do theatre and media studies at Glasgow University this September. She was looking forward to a career in theatre production. All four were the best of friends. They were planning a holiday in Tenerife when they had finished their exams this summer."

Emma, a prefect, helped younger children with reading difficulties. Claire, who planned to study mathematics and computing at university,



Jocelyn Bancroft, Emma Freear and Samantha Brearley: they and Claire had planned a holiday together in Tenerife after summer exams

was taking A-level English, history and mathematics. Teachers said she was "cheerful, helpful, outgoing and conscientious". She was a member of the school symphonic wind band and its choral society, and had just taken part in Harrogate Operatic Society's production of *Me and My Girl*. She worked part-time in a private hospital. The girls were in a party of

12 returning to school in three cars after spending lunchtime at a pub near Harrogate. Mr McAleese said the school would examine its policy on allowing pupils to bring cars to school, but did not think it would be altered.

"Whenever a terrible accident occurs, any lessons to be learnt will be learnt. My first reaction is that this is a tragic accident which could have

happened in school hours or outside. We will keep everything under review."

"Some students who live on difficult bus routes come to school in cars with permission. They are allowed to leave the premises to go into town or to go further afield. As I understand it, a group had gone out because it was a nice, early spring day and they were coming back to school in

good time for afternoon registration. During the afternoon the friends in the two other cars became aware that the third car had not arrived. A group of sixth-formers who were free then retraced their route in order to see if they could find their friends and they came across the accident."

The intensity of the fire after the crash means that formal

identification of the victims will have to be through DNA sampling. Steve Councman, a North Yorkshire divisional fire officer, said the car had gone round a bend and crossed to the wrong side of the road on a straight stretch. He said: "It was the worst thing I've ever seen in 26 years in the job. There was no chance of survival for anybody in the vehicle."

Cheers in court as judges save the rave

By IAN MURRAY

TWO law lords were cheered yesterday as they blocked the eviction of an alternative "rave" community and praised its members for doing a "marvellous job" in restoring a derelict farm.

Seventy members of the Exodus Collective, from the nine-acre Longmeadow Farm at Chalfont, near Luton, squeezed into the Court of Appeal to hear the ruling by Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Hirst.

"Are they bringing their pigs with them?" Lord Justice Hirst joked. "We're not going to have a livestock attendance this morning? That's a great disappointment."

The founders of the collective arrived at the farm for a New Year's Eve rave party four years ago and decided to restore the property, hold more raves and seek a self-sufficient lifestyle. However, a possession order was granted to the Department of Trans-

port, which had bought the property as part of a road-widening scheme that has since been abandoned.

Yesterday the judges granted the collective leave to appeal against the possession order by Luton County Court, and ruled that it could not be evicted pending the hearing of the appeal.

Glen Jenkins, a founder member of the community, said later that the Transport Department had granted him a six-month renewable tenancy in 1992. "The department is opposing our right to stay for purely political reasons. People are often frightened by new emergent cultures."

He added that 115 raves had been held at the farm over four years: "Our raves are noted for the best respect-based order in the country. We are negotiating with police and the local authority for licensed dances."

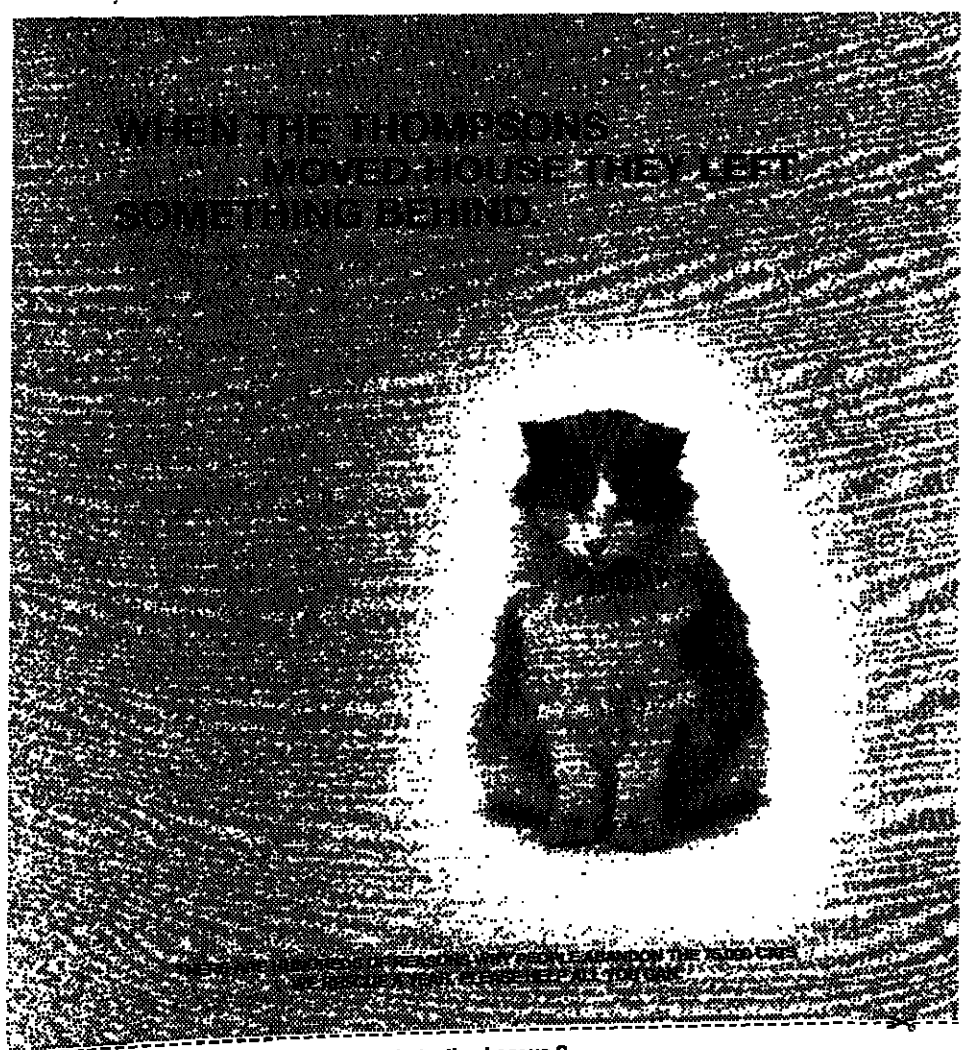
Royal plea for head of household

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

QUEEN Elizabeth the Queen Mother is advertising for a housekeeper at Clarence House. Her head of staff, Sir Alastair Aird, has placed a six-line advertisement in several local newspapers, requesting an "experienced housekeeper for a Royal House in London". Applicants are asked to write to the Comptroller at Clarence House.

The recruit will head the household and be responsible for overseeing the other housekeepers, monitoring cleaning, and ordering domestic supplies. The live-in position is understood to carry a salary of about £15,000.

Sir Alastair said that the vacancy had arisen with the impending retirement of Gwendoline Madden after 15 years. "The Queen Mother knows Mrs Madden well and is sad that she is leaving, but she has reached the age where she wants to retire."



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Blunt Carey under fire as week goes from bad to worse

By DANIEL MCGRORY

GEORGE CAREY'S staff concede that this has been his worst week as Archbishop of Canterbury. Now he is about to provoke further controversy with televised comments on "rave" services and the Royal Family's role in the Church.

Producers of the documentary series *Archbishop* promise that Dr Carey "pulls no punches" in his views on disestablishment and on what he believes political leaders should do about poverty and the penal system.

Peter Williams, who produced and directed the Meridian series for ITV, said last night: "He is a strong man and is not afraid to state his views. We follow him to a rave service, similar to the criticised Nine O'Clock Service, and he is very forthright. He tackles disestablishment and political issues which I suppose might be screened during the election campaign."

Dr Carey, who is in Jerusa-



Runcie: criticised for his "indiscretions"

lem, was said to be dismayed yesterday when he saw the headline reaction to his criticism of his predecessor, Lord Runcie, but made it plain that he has no regrets about what he said.

His staff had seen the week in Jerusalem, at a meeting of Anglican primates, as a gentle reintroduction after his two-month sabbatical at a theological college in Virginia. By last

night, all the benefits of his voluntary break had been undone. One aide said: "He is thick-skinned and knows the risks of saying anything, but he cannot work out why this week keeps seeing him on the front pages."

It began with hurried explanations as to why the Prince of Wales had not, as tradition dictates, asked the Church of England's senior cleric to confirm Prince William. His hosts in Israel then took exception to remarks he made in a sermon.

Dr Carey yesterday endured a sharp exchange with President Weizman of Israel when they met for a formal handshake. An aide who was present said that the President had been "a little bit strident". Dr Carey had explained that he had been misinterpreted and that he was certainly not advocating a Palestinian state.

He will enjoy little respite today as he drives to the Gaza Strip and a meeting with Yasser Arafat, which Palestin-



Dr Carey endured a sharp exchange with President Weizman yesterday over his remarks on the Middle East

ian sources admit they intend to manipulate as further international support for their cause.

The television programme containing his views on Lord Runcie is to be shown on Meridian on Sunday. A three-part series will be shown on the ITV network from Sunday.

April 6. The final programme tackles his views on disestablishment and his attendance at the rave service.

Andrew Purkis, the archbishop's secretary for public affairs, said last night: "He is not an attention-seeker, but he is a direct, uncomplicated man who is not naturally tremen-

dously diplomatic or guarded." He said Dr Carey had thought long and hard about whether to agree to let the television cameras follow him for a year.

Dr Carey made no apologies yesterday for criticising Lord Runcie's "rather indiscreet disclosures" in his biog-

raphy, or for giving his views on Diana, Princess of Wales, and her marriage.

An aide at Lambeth Palace said: "Dr Carey has learnt to be ultra-cautious but somehow every remark collects headlines he did not intend. His problem is that he will never say 'No comment'."

HRT poses health risk 'only in first year'

By JEREMY LAURANCE

WOMEN have an increased risk of blood clots in the legs during the first year of hormone replacement therapy, researchers have found.

The risk is highest, at between four and five times that of a non-HRT user, during the first six months, then drops to a threefold risk after six months. After 12 months the risk is no higher than that of a non-user.

The study looked at the records of 350,000 women in Britain, the largest investigation of the link between HRT and the risk of thromboembolism, which can be fatal. The findings show that between one and two cases of thromboembolism a year per 10,000 women could be attributable to HRT.

The study, by researchers from Global Pharmacology-Epidemiology, Novartis Pharmaceuticals in Barcelona, and published in the *British Medical Journal*, found the type of treatment — high or low dose, pills or patches, with or without progestogens — made no difference to the risk.

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Saving anorexics from themselves



MEDICAL BRIEFING

A COURT has decreed that a 16-year-old anorexic patient should be compulsorily detained in hospital for life-saving treatment.

In the past, attempting suicide was a criminal offence. Now it is accepted that suicide and attempted suicide are often symptoms of many psychiatric diseases.

Anorexic patients are in danger of killing themselves, perhaps not as dramatically as by taking an overdose, but just as surely. The patient in question, called C, had threatened to take her life many times and had recently been restrained from throwing herself off a balcony.

Death in a patient who has reduced her weight to 6½ stone could occur very suddenly if she were to refuse all food, or if she were to take laxatives, diuretics (water pills), or both together. When Mr Justice Wall made his order, it seems that he was motivated by the thought that C was still a minor and that, as such, the State should step in to protect her life from the consequences of her own delusions.

Anorexic patients are pre-

dominantly, but not exclusively, white middle-class girls of above average intelligence who expect to follow a university career. Patients are often perfectionists who have an overdeveloped anxiety about their body image in particular and their health in general. They have a distorted sense of that image, so that while their family and friends see them as cachectic as concentration camp victims, they are convinced that they are still too fat.

The other characteristic of anorexic patients, of whom over 90 per cent are female, is that they have a fear of not being in control of their lives and their bodies. Mr Justice Wall has been attacked for removing the ability of C to control her own life by having her incarcerated in hospital, but if he had left her at home there might well have been no life to control. The axiom is that anorexia is a potentially lethal disease and that its progress may be unremitting until death.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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Lilley promises to prevent repeat of pensions scandal

By Jill Sherman and Polly Newton

PETER LILLEY promised a crackdown yesterday on pension firms that have failed to compensate people who were mis-sold personal pensions.

There has been growing public concern about the Government's handling of the issue. The Social Security Secretary told MPs that firms which had so far not compensated people would not be able to take part in the Government's new pensions initiative, Basic Pension Plus, which he announced last week.

At least 600,000 people are still awaiting compensation years after being wrongly advised to exchange generous occupational pension schemes for expensive personal pension funds.

Most of the victims were wrongly persuaded by insurance salesmen to opt out of their company schemes, which offered far better benefits than the personal pensions they were persuaded to buy. More than 18,000 people have died before being compensated for being mis-sold a private personal pension, according to figures published by Labour yesterday.

The figures from Collette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, show that 1.5 million people were mis-sold personal pensions and nearly 600,000 have been identified for compensation because they have

already retired, or are near retirement. But only 6,810 have been compensated.

"The Tories wrongly encouraged 1.5 million people to opt out of occupational pensions into private pensions in the 1980s. Why should anyone trust the Government's reassurances about their new private pension plan when they have failed to sort out the mess they created ten years ago?"

Her remarks coincided with a warning by the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) that Mr Lilley's new scheme would lead to the collapse of occupational pension schemes, which cover 11 million people at work. A briefing note from NAPF said: "The change in the tax regime could lead to the demise of the occupational pension system."

During a Commons debate on the future of pensions Mr Lilley said that Labour made "great play" of the dangers of people being mis-sold pension packages in the future, as had happened with some personal pension schemes in the late 1980s. But he reassured MPs that any companies that had failed to compensate clients would be penalised. "Needless to say any company which failed to compensate for past mis-selling would certainly not be eligible to manage a Basic Pension Plus fund." But

he added: "That sort of mis-selling is not directly relevant to Basic Pension Plus and could not recur under that scheme."

Mr Lilley was pressed in the House by a succession of Labour backbenchers about the mis-selling scandal and the Government's drive to encourage people out of occupational and into personal pensions. Stephen Timmins (Lab, Newham North East) said that many of the biggest insurance companies had been involved in the mis-selling of personal pensions. He asked Mr Lilley: "Are you telling the House that none of those will be able to be involved in Basic Pension Plus?"

Mr Lilley replied: "Those companies which fail to provide restitution for those to whom they mis-sold pensions would not be eligible to run Basic Pension Plus."

He said the pension reforms would allow everyone to share in the success of the economy. Under the new scheme people would get a rebate on their National Insurance Contributions, which would be paid into a personal pension fund to be paid to them in retirement. "It will extend to everyone's rights previously only enjoyed by the better off. It will give everyone... the right to a better and more secure pension."



THE former Cabinet minister Peter Brooke recovering from the ordeal of yesterday's Westminster Dog of the Year competition with Koki, his Labrador-border collie cross-bred. As well as being pushed into second place, Koki succumbed to the excitement of

Dog that went for Brooke

the occasion and scratched her master's face, drawing blood. Mr Brooke, as tolerant as the next dog owner, quickly forgave his exuberant pup-

py, named after the Sri Lankan word for "black maiden". Otherwise it was a successful day for the Tories, with Philip Oppenheim's border collie cross-bred, Vom, coming first, and John Whittingdale's cocker spaniel, Humphrey, third.

Councils accused of blackmail over nursery vouchers

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

LOCAL authorities were accused yesterday of "blackmailing" parents into using their nursery vouchers for places in large school reception classes.

The issuing of vouchers, which are being sent out now to 600,000 parents for use from April, has led a quarter of councils to expand reception classes to take children from the day they become four.

The Pre-School Learning Alliance (PLA) said that children's interests were being sacrificed by local authorities chasing the £1,100 value of each voucher. Private nurseries are legally limited to eight children for every adult whereas reception classes, which have no restriction, commonly have 30 or more.

Margaret Lochrie, chief executive of the PLA, said: "Local authorities are certainly putting pressure on parents, most commonly by suggesting that if they do not spend the voucher in the local school, the place will not be available when the child becomes five. In some instances it has been suggested quite misleadingly the school itself might be jeopardised."

A dozen playgroups have closed in Norfolk as a result of parents deciding to send their children to a primary school, leading the PLA to predict that 800 playgroups would close in the first year of the scheme.

One letter, sent by a Suffolk County Council official to parents, said that unless they used their vouchers at local

schools "there will not be enough money to pay for teachers, books and everything else".

A letter to parents from Gattons Infant School in Burgess Hill, West Sussex, says that their children could be at a "disadvantage" unless they join at four. Sheddingle Primary School, also in Burgess Hill, told parents that it was "expecting" all children who turned five during the year to start in September.

David Whitbread, education officer for the Association of County Councils, said that popular schools were right to inform parents that they could face difficulties if they chose not to take up a place with their voucher at four. "It might look a lot like blackmail but the parent who had not been alerted to the situation might be spitting blood when they find they cannot get in at five."

Bill Dickinson, managing director of a nursery school in North Walsham, Norfolk, said he would mount a legal challenge to the Children Act's limit on private nursery sizes. He said it meant that the market was "unfairly regulated" against the playgroups.

Robin Squire, the junior Education Minister, has advised local authorities to exercise restraint. But he said: "The enormous expansion in the number of nursery places far outweighs the very small number of losses brought about by closure of a few pre-schools."

Action needed to infuse select committees with young talent

If government is ever to be made properly accountable, it will be via the select committees of the Commons. These may turn out to be one of the most lasting creations of the Thatcher era, even if perhaps an absent-minded one on her part. Sir Terence Higgins, chairman of the Liaison Committee, remarked yesterday in introducing its report, *The Work of Select Committees*.

The committees cannot, indeed should not, make policy. That is the job of ministers and officials. But they can influence the policy debate, and they have in the current Parliament on issues as diverse as

the future of the coal industry, privacy and the media, ministerial accountability, the role of the Bank of England, and the sale of defence married quarters. Of course, the committees have many weaknesses. Some have become too close to the departments they monitor. Others have preferred big inquiries to regular scrutiny. A few chairmen, notably Greville Janner of the old Employment Committee, have been unable to resist the temptation to "grandstand" for the cameras.

There is obvious scope for improvement and the Liaison Committee report makes important suggestions — for instance, that

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

there is no justification for any minister or former minister declining to appear before a committee (a reference, among other cases, to Baroness Thatcher's refusal to testify before the Pergau dam inquiry); that ministers should allow named civil servants to give evidence; and that more time be provided for debate on committee reports including substantive and amendable motions.

Two key changes are needed. First, as yesterday's report sug-

gests, the executive agencies, now employing three quarters of home civil servants, "have not been sufficiently accountable". This is partly a matter of ministers allowing chief executives to give evidence when requested (not so far really a problem). Moreover, "it would be appropriate, indeed essential, for the new committees to build into their forward programme examination of some if not all of the agencies and other non-departmental bodies of whom they have an oversight". The report presents this as best practice since "it is a fundamental principle that it is for each committee to determine its

own work programme". I believe that is too permissive. The committees should have an obligation to report to the House every year on the main agencies in their area. The same point applies on spending plans where, after a patchy start, more committees are looking at the improved departmental reports. The Liaison Committee emphasises the "need for committees carefully to scrutinise their departmental reports and particularly the financial information they contain". Again, that should be a matter of duty, not choice.

Secondly, the career structure of the Commons needs to be changed

to encourage service on select committees. At present, the ambitious prefer frontbench service, no matter how lowly. Since 1992, four chairmen have become ministers, one even becoming an assistant whip. In his personal reflections, Sir Terence — one of the main architects of the select committee system since 1979 — argues that new members need to be balanced by the experienced, particularly ex-ministers with their knowledge of how departments work. Some former ministers have made a big contribution to the committees, but many adopt a low profile in the House after losing office and

concentrate on outside business interests in preparation for retiring from the Commons. Moreover, Sir Terence noted the suggestion of the Senior Salaries Review Body that extra payments for committee chairmen should be considered.

But more radical solutions are needed. The number of ministers should be cut to reduce the domination of the front benches. Young MPs might then shift their ambitions so that select committee work is seen as fulfilling and important, as part of a parliamentary career as becoming a junior minister.

PETER RIDDELL

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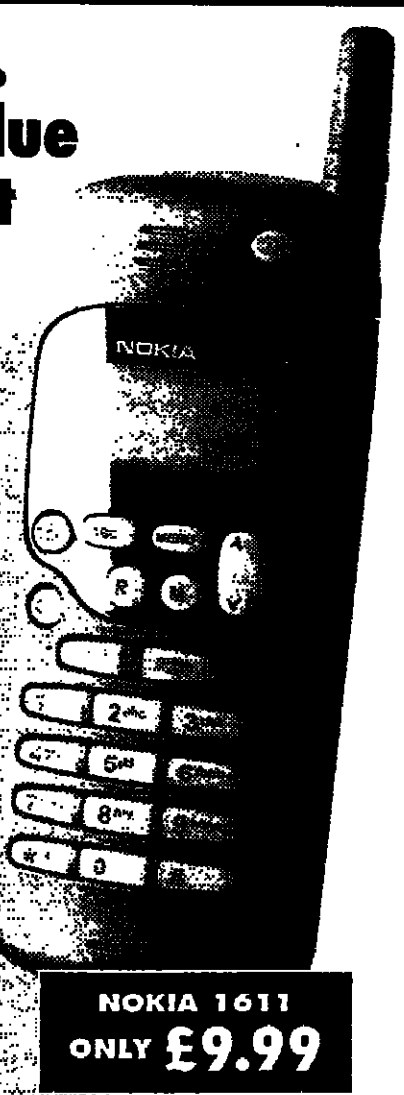
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Residents fear 'our own little Alcatraz' will scare away tourists and potential investors

Emergency prison ship sails in to a storm of protest

BY GLEN OWEN

THE shadow of Victorian England fell over Portland Harbour yesterday when the prison ship Weare arrived at the end of its voyage across the Atlantic.

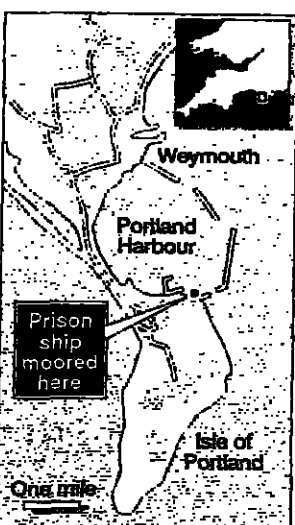
Not since the last century have criminals been housed in "hulks" moored off the coast of Britain. Nor should they be now, according to many of the local people who turned out to watch the 480-berth, five-storey floating prison being towed into dock on the Isle of Portland. "It should be towed back out to sea and scrapped," said Nigel Copey, of the campaign against the ship.

His is a view shared by Weymouth and Portland council. Jim Churchhouse, chairman of the planning committee, said they would be contesting the siting at a Department of Environment hearing on March 20. He believes that the area will become "the Devil's Island of Britain, scaring away tourists and investors". The English Tourist Board says that such a floating construction will despoil "a stunning geographical location".

Her Majesty's Prison Weare, named after a local river, was latterly The Resolution, a drug rehabilitation

centre on the Hudson River in New York. Its £6 million annual running cost was deemed to be too expensive and it was abandoned in 1992. The Americans were prepared to sell it for scrap at £300,000 before the Prison Service stepped in with a £3.5 million offer.

HMP Weare is the length of a football pitch and as high as four double-decker buses. It is fitted with a library, chapel, mosque, squash courts and swimming pools. Inmates will be housed in a series of single



and double metal boxes. As it passed the island breakwaters, quarried by 19th-century prisoners, the ship was accompanied by a flotilla of press and police launches.

Stephen Bradley, a helicopter mechanic at Portland Island's naval air station, called it "our own little Alcatraz". He said he would prefer to see it back in the Falkland Islands, where it housed workers building the island's airport after the conflict with Argentina. "This is a very busy place in the summer. The first thing tourists will see when they come here is a great big prison ship," he said.

At the Aquasport hotel overlooking the harbour, Maureen Finion, one of the cooks, said Portland Island was fast becoming the prison capital of England. "We already have The Verne prison and a young offenders' institution. Whenever prisoners go walkabout the roadblocks go up. At this rate we will need passports to move around our own island." She pointed out that the category C inmates would lift the island's prison population to 1,500.

Ann Widdicombe, the Prisons Minister, has emphasised that the ship will be needed



Her Majesty's Prison Weare arriving yesterday in Portland Harbour, where it will be needed for three years

only for the next three years, during which time more accommodation will be built for the country's rapidly rising prison population.

The Government is building blocks with space for 2,000 inmates in the grounds of existing jails, has bought units used by Norwegian oil workers to house hundreds more, and is refurbishing wings in five Victorian prisons. Next

year, Parc prison at Bridgend, South Wales, and Altcourse in Liverpool will open, providing 1,600 places. A further three jails are planned for Birmingham, Nottinghamshire and Salford, and there will be another 800-cell facility at an as-yet unknown site in Essex.

Although there have been no hulks in Britain since Victorian times, immigration

detainees were held on board the *Earl William*, a Sealink ferry, in 1987. It was moored off Harwich, in Essex, but went adrift during a hurricane. In the early 1970s, detainees and internees were held on *HMS Maidstone* in Belfast Harbour. Eight of them staged a dramatic escape, swimming ashore coated in lard.

Not everyone watching

HMP Weare's arrival was opposed to it John Brooks, a taxi driver in Weymouth, thought that the prison ship's curiosity value would bring him more fares. "It is an excellent idea," he said. "Visitors will want to see it and it will bring employment to the area. People are being hysterical about the visual aspect. I don't think it will look that bad."

Police to examine council's spending

BY IAN MURRAY

THE fraud squad has been called in by a district auditor to investigate suspected financial irregularities at a borough council.

South Yorkshire Police confirmed yesterday that commercial branch officers were analysing Doncaster council documents handed to them by Gordon Sutton, the auditor. "It is too early to say whether there is any evidence of any criminal offence having been committed," a spokeswoman said. "We are not willing to discuss the nature or scope of the inquiry at this stage."

Mr Sutton said that the decision to call in the police had resulted from matters which had emerged since he issued a management report last month. That report disclosed that members and officers of the Labour-controlled council had been on first-class trips to various countries. Mr Sutton had found that there were "working lunches" at £50 a head, where most of the bill was for alcohol. He told a meeting with leading members: "The level of alcohol consumed at these lunches makes it unlikely that those attending them could do any work in the afternoon."

The leader of the council, Peter Welsh, and his deputy, Ray Stockhill, have since resigned and been replaced by Malcolm Glover and Colin Wedd. The new leadership is setting up a committee to control spending and has drawn up stringent limits on expenses.

Court ruling on book prices closes a publishing chapter

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE suspended 96-year-old Net Book Agreement was finally killed off yesterday, making it unlawful for publishers to fix the retail price of books. An order scrapping it was handed down by the Restrictive Practices Court after John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, argued that it was against the public interest.

The agreement had been ignored since September 1995 as large publishers withdrew their support and bookstore chains started to discount titles. The Publishers' Association, responsible for administering it, withdrew its opposition to the agreement's demise.

John Calder, the independent publisher, and Jenny Glazer, from the National Acquisitions Group, tried a last-ditch fight to save it. Mr Calder said after judgment was handed down by Mr

Justice Ferris: "We are disappointed. This will be of great concern to the European publishing community. We shall see if we can get the financial support necessary to launch an appeal."

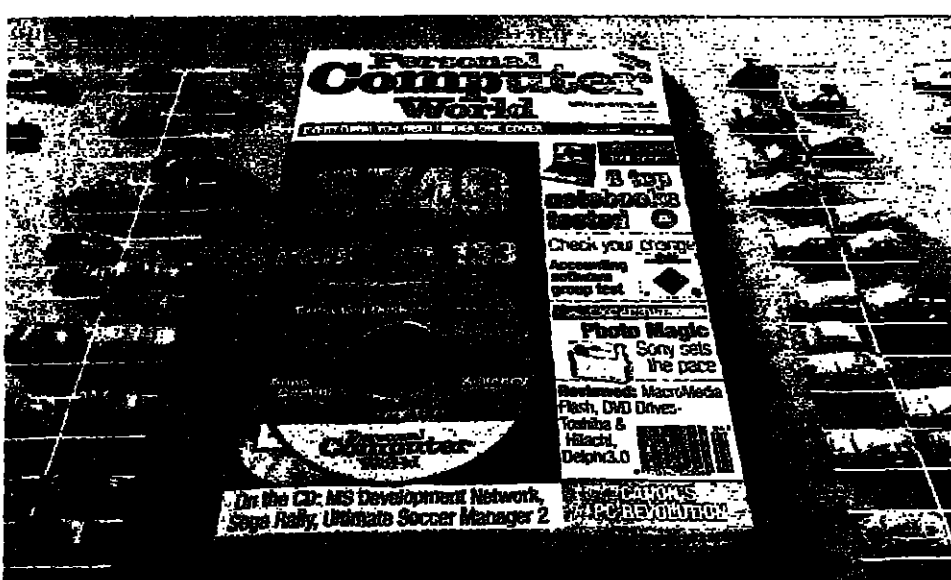
Resistance to the scrapping had also come from the playwright Tom Stoppard and the literary editor Auberon Waugh, who both said that the nation's literacy had been threatened by a bestseller culture since the suspension of the agreement.

Mr Waugh said after the hearing: "What an extraordinary interpretation of the 'public interest' to suppose that anything that results in the disappearance of serious booksellers is to anybody's advantage. We can see from the example of the United States, where there's never been a net book agreement, that serious publishing — outside the strictly academic

— is almost non-existent. The reading habit has been lost. Nothing but trash prevails."

The court agreed with Mr Bridgeman that there had been a change in circumstances since the 1960s, when it had ruled that the agreement was not against the public interest. Mr Bridgeman said later: "Modern production and distribution methods have removed the need for a price-fixing agreement. The agreement was voluntarily dismantled by the industry two years ago and none of the alarmist predictions about the demise of specialist bookshops have yet come about."

Mr Bridgeman had argued in court that the agreement prevented booksellers from selling titles in popular demand at lower prices and from disposing of slow-moving stocks cheaply to avoid tying up capital.



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Jubilant miners acclaim job deal as Kohl caves in

FROM ROGER BOYES IN GELSENKIRCHEN

TIERED but jubilant miners yesterday whistled and sounded hooters to celebrate a deal by Helmut Kohl who, after a week of tough street protests, has agreed to stop mass lay-offs in the coal industry for the next seven years.

"We are the people!" chanted the pitworkers, their overalls streaked with mud after a night spent in tents. There seemed no doubt in their minds that they had scored a considerable victory. Other miners mounted high-powered bikes and roared in a triumphant, noisy cavalcade through the centre of Bonn.

In Berlin, thousands of construction workers protested for the fourth consecutive day in Berlin against chronic unemployment in their sector and so-called wage-dumping by foreign firms.

The nature of yesterday's compromise shows yet again the great gulf between the Chancellor's brand of Christian Democracy and the radical Toryism of Margaret Thatcher, the last West European leader to win an open confrontation with miners' unions. The Chancellor's original plan, crafted together with the Free Democrats, his more zealous reformist partner

in the government coalition, was to cut subsidies to £1.4 billion a year by 2005. Each coalminer is subsidised now to the tune of £50,000 a year. Under the plan ten pits were to be closed and 50,000 miners were to be made redundant.

Now the pit closures will be more evenly spread, coming at the rate of one a year until 2005. About 26,000 jobs will disappear between now and 2000 but the workers will be offered early retirement, voluntary redundancy packages and elaborate retraining schemes that will keep them off the dole.

Another 20,000 will be eased out of the pits in the five years that follow. Government has found about £300 million in extra financial help over the next three years to ensure that the miners from the Ruhr and Saar regions do not add to the unemployment figures; the unemployment region of North Rhine Westphalia is also chipping in.

There were worried faces among the revellers in the Hugo pit in Gelsenkirchen yesterday. "Most of us here are young," said Klaus Prendel, 23. "Even if my job is safe until I'm 30 - what then? I can't retire." Some com-

plained that the constant threat of closure has soured the working atmosphere. Management was complaining of long tea breaks and time-wasting pauses to apply eye creams and dust masks.

The Free Democratic Party supported the compromise but was less than enthusiastic about the result. It has consistently argued for an end to coal subsidies.

However, under the terms of the compromise total coal subsidies will stay at around £3 billion at least until the year 2001 - by which time there may well be some form of Social Democratic government in Bonn, even more reluctant to risk a confrontation with the unions.

Job warning: Ian Lang, the president of the Board of Trade, yesterday urged German industrialists to speak out against inserting an employment chapter in the revised Maastricht treaty. Speaking in German to businessmen in Düsseldorf he said: "I would encourage you as German industrialists to make your views known. The time to speak out is now. The new chapter will not create a single job, except, perhaps, in the European Commission."



Pit workers in Cologne greet the announcement of an agreement to soften the impact of cutting subsidies to the coal industry. Only one mine will close each year until 2005

Canada pulls out diplomats from Nigeria

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

CANADA has suspended diplomatic relations with Nigeria, recalled its High Commissioner and closed its offices in Lagos.

The simmering dispute between Canada and Nigeria erupted into the open after the Nigerian military regime of General Sani Abacha refused entry to a Canadian diplomat last December. The crisis also comes as Nigeria filed charges of treason against Wole Soyinka, a Nobel prize-winning author and a critic of the regime, and 11 other Nigerian dissidents over a series of bomb blasts at army bases, which killed three soldiers. They face the death penalty if convicted.

Mr Soyinka, who lives in exile in New York, was on his way to Canada last night as a guest of the Canadian Government. He said the Nigerian junta is striking out at Canada because of its attempt to mount an international boycott against Nigeria over its abuse of human rights.

Lloyd Axworthy, the Canadian Foreign Minister, rejected as "outrageous propaganda" a Nigerian allegation that Canada was involved in terrorism. He said that because of the allegation and the refusal to issue a visa for a Canadian security officer, Ottawa had no choice but to close its diplomatic office.

For the past two years, Canada has been in the forefront of attempts in the 53-member Commonwealth to apply sanctions against Nigeria after it hanged Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer, and other democracy advocates. Deep frustration: Canada's decision is the result of deep frustration in Ottawa that the Commonwealth action group attempting to nudge Nigeria back towards democracy lacks determination to put real pressure on the Commonwealth's least democratic state (Michael Binyon writes). Ottawa's decision may widen the split within the eight-member action group over sanctions on Nigeria.

Three Britons held hostage

Paris: Three British divers were among 20 foreign oil workers being held hostage by tribesmen aboard a cargo barge on the coast of Nigeria last night (Ben Macintyre writes).

The men, working for a British firm in conjunction with French rig operators, were taken captive on Tuesday on the Escravos river in the southern Warri region by unarmed tribe members in a jobs dispute.

Bonn among last to subsidise coal

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE decision by Germany to maintain support for its coal industry keeps alive one of the last government subsidies offered to coal.

Apart from China, which is thought to subsidise mining heavily, Europe is the only region where government cash is offered to coal producers. And within Europe the only other subsidies are offered by Spain and Poland although there is a small amount of support still operating in the UK through government-enforced contracts with the electricity generators which expire in 1998.

Elsewhere large coal producing countries such as Australia, the United States, Indonesia and South Africa mine coal at relatively low cost and export to Europe and other destinations despite freight costs. The price of coal depends on its export destination and on the quality and type of coal needed. Generally the price of coal produced overseas and shipped into Europe hovers around the \$40 (£25) a tonne mark.

According to McCloskey Coal Information Services, one of the most authoritative monitors of coal production, Australia produces coal for about \$20-\$30 a tonne and can ship it here for \$40. The United States mines most coal for a price of about \$35 a tonne which is in line with the \$34 achieved by Colombia and South Africa.

Coal production costs in Germany and Spain are high in comparison to their international competitors. European mines tend to be deeper and harder to work whereas the newer areas in Australia and South Africa are easier and cheaper.

Coal costs about \$176 a tonne to produce in Germany into which the Government sinks subsidies of \$130 a tonne into the industry. However, some of the subsidy is intended for long-term use for retraining and redundancy measures. In Spain coal costs about \$100 a tonne to produce for which the Government puts up a subsidy of \$50 a tonne.

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Huge surplus of nuclear material 'is easy to steal'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE five major nuclear powers now have 1,600 tonnes of surplus weapons-grade plutonium and highly enriched uranium, much of it "under-protected and under-regulated", a study of the world's stockpile of atomic fuel reported yesterday.

Russian stocks were so huge that if a maverick regime, such as Iraq, tried to steal 150-200kg of weapons-grade material, the "Russians would not even know about it", says David Albright, a co-author.

Mr Albright, the president of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security, and a former member of the International Atomic Energy Agency inspection team in Iraq, said that the Iraqis were trying to reconstitute their nuclear weapons programme.

He and his co-authors, William Walker, the Professor of International Relations at St Andrews University, and

Frans Berkhout, the senior Fellow at the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University, gave a warning that excessive secrecy about nuclear stocks had made it impossible to keep an accurate record.

The report, *Plutonium and Highly Enriched Uranium 1996* (Oxford University Press), estimated that 3,000 tonnes of plutonium and highly enriched uranium had been produced in the past 50 years, of which 2,000 tonnes were for military uses. Less than 400 tonnes were now required to sustain nuclear arsenals, "so that 1,600 tonnes can be counted as excess".

The report estimated that Russia now had 130 tonnes of weapons-grade plutonium; the United States, 85; Britain, 31; France, 5; and China, 4. Of the so-called threshold states, those unofficially stocking nuclear bombs or weapons-grade fuel, Israel was estimated

to have 0.4 tonnes, India, 0.3 and North Korea, 0.03.

Russia also had 1,050 tonnes of highly enriched uranium: the United States, 645; Britain, 8; France, 24; China, 20; and Pakistan, 0.2. The authors concluded that previous estimates that the Israelis had built 200 nuclear bombs were probably exaggerated.

They also reported that the principal nuclear reprocessing countries — Britain, Russia and France — were producing 7-8 tonnes of plutonium from spent fuel out of nuclear power stations but in "an unprecedented growth", this was to rise to 22-23 tonnes by 2000.

With the risk of nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists, the authors called for urgent steps to be taken to improve controls of plutonium and uranium stocks, particularly in Russia where the "possibility of theft was frightening".

Indian to succeed Mother Teresa

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

MOTHER TERESA handed over control of the worldwide Missionaries of Charity yesterday to Sister Nirmala, a former Hindu from a high-caste Brahmin family.

Frail and in a wheelchair, Mother Teresa, 86, watched the twice-postponed election of a new Mother Superior by more than 100 nuns from around the world in Calcutta. It was a day the Albanian-born nun had yearned for.

She has been asking for years to be relieved of her responsibilities, citing age and poor health, but was unanimously re-elected twice against her will. A string of health crises last year, culminating in heart surgery, finally left the order no choice but to find a successor. The Vatican, to which the order answers, is believed to have unofficially interceded to ensure that a consensus was reached, although the vote was still not unanimous.

Sister Nirmala, 63, converted to Roman Catholicism when young. She comes from



Mother Teresa with the new Mother Superior, Sister Nirmala, at the Missionaries of Charity headquarters in Calcutta

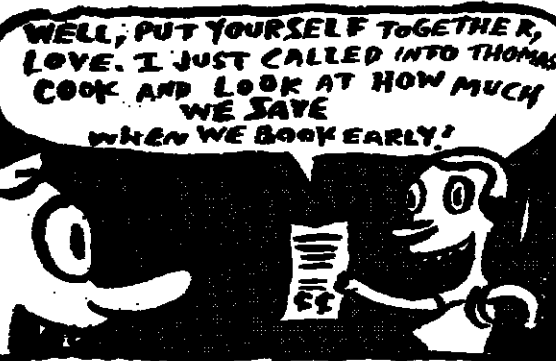
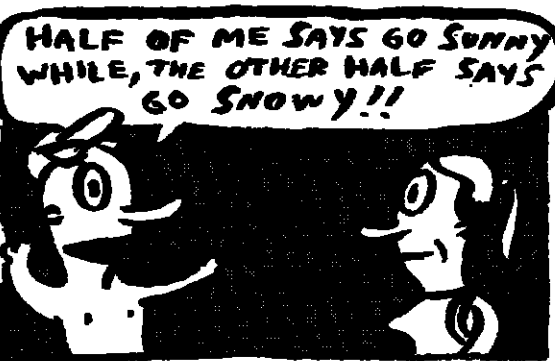
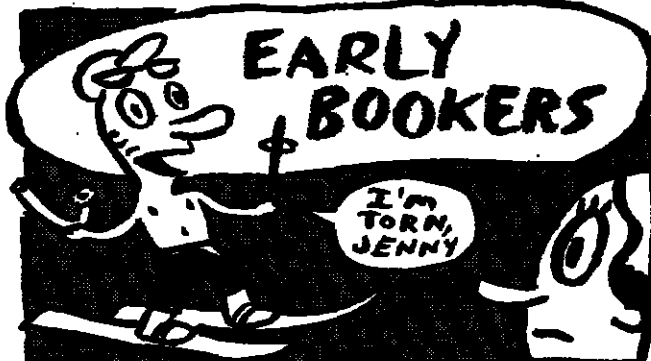
a Nepali family background, although she was born in India. Sister Nirmala — her name means "pure" in Sanskrit, the root language of Hindi — was not Mother Teresa's first choice.

The Missionaries of Charity was reluctant to relieve Mother Teresa of the leader-

ship because of her international standing as the 1979 winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace. The order has 4,500 nuns in more than 120 countries. Sister Nirmala has supervised the order's centres in Europe and the United States. Mother Teresa will now retire to Mother House, the

modest building in central Calcutta that serves as her home and the Missionaries of Charity headquarters. Sister Nirmala said: "It is a big responsibility. Looking at myself, I feel afraid whether I will be able to bear the responsibility. But looking at God I think I can."

□ Srinagar: Indian police used teargas to disperse Muslims protesting over a US Supreme Court decision to retain a depiction of the Prophet Muhammad inside a court that honours great lawmakers. Muslims regard the portrayal of the Prophet's face as offensive. (Reuters)



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Conflict over fate of British hostage

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

DOUBTS were cast last night on reports that Christopher Howes, the British hostage who was kidnapped by the Khmer Rouge a year ago, had been killed by his captors.

Hun Sen, Cambodia's Second Prime Minister, said "intelligence sources" had convinced him there was a "millionth" chance that the mine expert from Bristol was still alive. But the report was denied by Hun Sen's colleague, Prince Norodom Siha-nouk, the First Prime Minister, who said he was certain Mr Howes was alive. A Foreign Office spokesman in Phnom Penh said there had been reports both of Mr Howes' escape and his death, and that there was no new evidence of either.

The announcement by Mr Hun came just days after Mr Howes' family expressed anger at the release from jail of Cheap Vichit, the Khmer Rouge soldier who was convicted and jailed for five years for kidnapping Mr Howes, and 28 others working for the British Mines Advisory Group. Roy Howes said he "shook with rage" at hearing of the release of his son's captor.



Carmen: making a point

Australian hoaxer is unmasked

Sydney. Another Australian artistic hoax emerged yesterday, less than a week after Eddie Burrup, the Aboriginal author, was revealed as an elderly white woman (Roger Maynard writes).

The latest discovery involves a man posing as Wanda Koolmatric, the award-winning Aboriginal writer, whose "semi-autobiographical" work won an Australian award for the best first novel by a woman in 1995.

Leon Carmen, 47, says he carried out the deception to prove a point. John Bayley, his agent, said Mr Carmen believed publishers would be more interested in the work of a part-Aboriginal woman than the first novel of a white man in his mid-forties.

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'We are sliding towards an abyss of bloodshed brought about by fear and despair'

Soldier's deadly shots echo King's warning to Israel

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE massacre of seven Israeli schoolgirls on the ironically named Hill of Peace close to the normally placid border with Jordan could not have come at a worse moment for the tottering Middle East peace process.

Only hours before 20 shots rang out across a part of the biblical Jordan Valley that was named to symbolise the end of war between the two neighbours. Omar Rifai, the Jordanian Ambassador, had warned a group of Israeli businessmen: "The relations between Israel and Jordan are undergoing a period of strain and are not as they should be at this point. In fact, they are close to a situation of crisis."

The extent of the differences between King Hussein of Jordan and Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, was illustrated in a remarkable pair of mutually recriminatory letters exchanged this week.

The atmosphere worsened when *The Washington Post* quoted Israeli officials as hinting at the history of mental illness in Jordan's ruling Hashemite dynasty, an assertion hastily denied by Mr Netanyahu. "This is a dirty maligning which is out of place," the Israeli leader said of the story. "I do not speak in such terms and I do not think in such terms."

Behind the strains on what until last year was Israel's warmest peace with any Arab party is Israel's determination to go ahead — even as early as next week — with the construction of a massive new settlement at Har Homa in east Jerusalem on land conquered from Jordan in 1967.

Equally harmful to ties be-

Beirut: An Arab summit may be held soon to discuss measures to counter Israel's plans to build a settlement in Arab East Jerusalem, Esmat Abdel-Meguid, the Arab League Secretary-General said yesterday. "I imagine that contacts between Arab leaders at present may lead to invitations to an Arab summit, even if a mini-summit," he said. (Reuters)

between the countries was last week's decision by the Israeli Government to hand back only 9 per cent more of the occupied West Bank to the Palestinians under a three-stage agreement, as opposed to the 30 per cent that had been expected.

Unlike other Arab leaders, who also expressed anger at the Israeli moves, King Hussein, the great survivor of Middle East politics, had an extra reason for concern: more than 60 per cent of his subjects are of Palestinian origin and thus especially sensitive to what many saw as Israeli "humiliation" of their "brothers" across the Jordan River.

The King did not mince his words when he told Mr Netanyahu in a published letter that he feared the lives of Israelis and Arabs were fast "sliding towards an abyss of bloodshed and disaster, brought about by fear and despair".

Although some horrified officials tried to brush off yesterday's mass killing as the one-off act of a madman, others were outspoken in describing it as symptomatic of the frustration that has been

boiling up against Mr Netanyahu's determination to press ahead with expanding settlements, not only in the West Bank but also in the more explosive occupied east Jerusalem.

One result of the attack is likely to be strengthening of the hardliners on both sides of the Arab-Israeli divide. "It came at a moment when the main need was for building trust between the sides," said one diplomat. "Unfortunately, the result will be to have the opposite effect."

Although the border between Israel and Jordan was quiet even before peace was signed between King Hussein and the late Yitzhak Rabin in October 1994, there has been a groundswell of popular opposition to the treaty inside Jordan which King Hussein has been resisting.

In January this manifested itself when 1,000 Jordanian policemen had to hold back 4,000 Jordanians demonstrating against the first Israeli trade fair in Amman. "Jordan is not the Zionist bridge to the Arab world," read one slogan.

The protest was organised by a "national committee" that represents a coalition of 21 Jordanian political parties, 18 unions and business lobbies. So far, the King has had little success in his efforts to break resistance to normalisation with Israel among Jordan's Islamic-dominated professional unions, which between them represent 100,000 people. They have ordered expulsion for any member working with Israelis.

Yesterday's killings have added a terrible poignancy to the letter which Mr Netanyahu sent to the King after the attack on his attitudes which was couched in language so undiplomatic that it took both Israeli and Arab officials by surprise.

"It is up to us to realise our historical mutual interests and not let the setbacks of the Palestinian track cloud the understandings that were begun by my predecessors," he wrote on Monday. "Surely, we can achieve this end in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding with the unrelenting hope and resolve to secure a better future for all peoples of this region."

After yesterday's scenes of horror close to the muddy waters of the Jordan River, that goal will be even more difficult to realise.

Leading article, page 21



Hila Ivri, 14, who survived the attack by a Jordanian soldier, is comforted by a hospital nurse. Seven schoolgirls were killed on an outing to the Hill of Peace

Hussein cuts short Spain visit

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

VISIBLY distressed after learning of the massacre at Naharayim, King Hussein of Jordan and Queen Noor cut short yesterday a private two-day visit to Spain and flew back to Amman, cancelling a luncheon with José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister.

In a brief statement from Madrid, the King expressed his "deepest sorrow and consternation" over the killings of

the Israeli schoolgirls. He said: "When I warned a few days ago of the danger of violence, I never thought it would lead to this. This is something which is aimed at me, the people of Jordan and the Jordanian Armed Forces. But we must continue to work for peace. Everything I have done, and will do in the future, is in order to secure a legacy of peace for the children of Abraham."

Earlier, he had telephoned Ezer Weizman, the Israeli President, and said: "This has hit me as if they were my own daughters. I am very sad. Please convey my grief to the families of the children."

Abel Matutes, the Spanish Foreign Minister, said separately that King Hussein had called upon the European Union to play "a greater role" in the Middle East peace process.

US condemns killings and calls for calm

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton condemned the killings yesterday but will defy Jerusalem's wishes by sending an envoy to Yasser Arafat's emergency conference in Gaza tomorrow.

Mr Clinton called the shootings a senseless act by a Jordanian soldier who may have been deranged and said there was no reason to believe the tragedy was politically motivated by any larger group.

He also cautioned against jumping to conclusions that the shootings were related to new tensions in the Middle East and urged leaders there to redouble their peace efforts.

Like other American presidents, Mr Clinton is attempting a balancing act to keep the Middle East peace process from collapsing. He angered Arabs last week with America's veto of a UN Security Council resolution criticising Israel's plans to build 6,500 homes for Jews in East Jerusalem, regarded by Palestinians as their future capital.

Since then the US has criticised Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, and demanded in vain that he should put off the construction. Israel has urged the US not to attend Mr Arafat's summit, to no avail.

America's envoy will be Edward Abington, a significant choice because he is US consul-general in East Jerusalem. He handles day-to-day concerns of Palestinians there and in the West Bank. Plans to send a second American, Aaron David Miller, deputy US peace negotiator, were cancelled without explanation.

Mr Arafat, the Palestinian leader, has also invited the European Union, Japan, Russia, Jordan, Egypt and Norway, all of whom have criticised the Israeli housing plan. Israel was not invited and is worried that international pressure will be marshalled against it at the meeting.

In Washington, the State Department brushed aside Mr Netanyahu's concerns, saying the Arafat conference

was not a negotiating session for Middle East peace, nor an alternative to direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

However, in a comment that will further rile some Israelis, the US Government felt its presence was important out of respect for Mr Arafat and a need for him to have a forum to express his concerns.

In a warning against anyone jumping to conclusions over yesterday's shootings, Mr Clinton used the occasion to praise King Hussein's long record of seeking peace and reconciliation. The comment was intended to counter the King's criticism of the US veto, which he described in a letter to Mr Netanyahu as having damaged American credibility as an honest broker in the Middle East.

UN chief 'shocked' by attack

New York: A "shocked" Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, deplored the killings of the schoolgirls on the Israel-Jordan border yesterday.

Fred Eckhardt, the UN spokesman, said Mr Annan "extends condolences to the families of the victims and the Government and people of Israel". The attack came at a time of crisis in Israeli-Jordanian and Israeli-Palestinian relations.

Mr Eckhardt said the incident "highlights the need to renew confidence in the peace process whose objective is the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the Middle East".

The 185-nation UN General Assembly was due to vote later in the day on a resolution criticising Israel for its controversial plans to build a Jewish settlement in disputed East Jerusalem. (AFP)



A military aide interrupts Mr Netanyahu at a meeting to give him news of the girls' killings

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swiss sent Nazi gold to Spain

New York: Spain received 85 tonnes of gold from Nazi Germany during the Second World War, according to a previously secret document. The bulk of it was shipped from Switzerland, the World Jewish Congress reported.

The congress has been combing the US National Archives to trace Nazi financial dealings with neutral nations. (Reuters)

Freedom fears

Hong Kong: Two-thirds of people here are "satisfied" about economic prospects after sovereignty reverts to China, but 40 per cent would leave if their freedoms were affected, a local survey found.

Plotters held

Bujumbura: Six people, including two army officers, were arrested after security services foiled a plot to assassinate Pierre Buyoya, Burundi's military ruler. Car bombs rocked the capital. (AFP)

President's man

Seoul: President Kim Young Sam, shaken by a bribery scandal that has claimed aides, named Lee Hoi Chang, a Prime Minister he sacked in 1994, to be chairman of his New Korea Party. (AP)

Street crime

Albany, New York: The state senate passed a Bill making it illegal to urinate in public and lie in doorways or on pavements in commercial districts. It aimed to improve the quality of life, its sponsor said. (AP)

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US Navy 'shot down TWA jet'

INDEPENDENT investigators led by Pierre Salinger, President Kennedy's press secretary, yesterday claimed to have found radar evidence showing that TWA Flight 800 was accidentally shot down last July by a US Navy missile during a secret training exercise that has been covered up by the US Government.

Federal investigators flatly rejected the conspiracy allegations, insisting that Mr Salinger's "friendly fire" theory was a "cruel hoax".

Flight TWA 800, bound for Paris, exploded off Long Island just minutes after take-off killing all 230 people on board.

Mr Salinger's initial claims that a US Navy missile caused the disaster were widely dismissed but yesterday he produced a series of radar images from a John F Kennedy Airport air traffic control video which he said provided absolute proof.

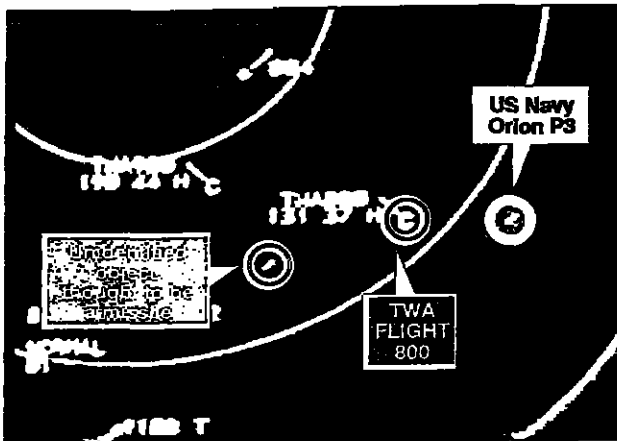
The radar evidence, contained in a 67-page report and published in *Paris-Match*, shows an unidentified "blip" heading for the airliner "at about 1,500 miles per hour". Mr Salinger and Mike Sommer, a fellow journalist, said at a Paris press conference.

"The plane 'was hit in error by an American Navy missile which had lost its lock on its

When TWA Flight 800 came down last July, investigators searched for a bomb or mechanical failure. Now a US Navy missile is being blamed. Ben Macintyre, in Paris, and Mark Henderson report

original target... launched by a US military vessel, either by a US Navy missile ship or a submerged submarine involved in that night's secret exercises," Mr Salinger said.

The investigators called for the US Congress to open immediate hearings into the disaster and urged William Cohen, the Secretary of Defence, to launch an inquiry into a tragedy that Mr Salinger has called "missilegate".



A radar screen image produced in the Salinger report alleging that "friendly fire" brought down the jet

Investigators say there are three possible theories to explain the disaster — a bomb, mechanical failure or a missile. The US Navy has insisted that no missile tests were under way in the area at the time.

"We have absolutely no new evidence that there was any incident like this," Kenneth Bacon, chief spokesman for the Pentagon, said. "All missiles owned by the Navy, by

any ships, submarines or planes in the area have been inventoried, personnel have been interviewed, records have been checked."

On Tuesday FBI agents raided the Florida home of Richard Russell, a retired pilot and a member of Mr Salinger's investigating team, and confiscated videotape containing the radar images.

The tape has been closely scrutinised by aviation experts who concluded it contained no evidence of a rogue missile. "It has the blip of the plane [TWA 800]. It has the blip of other planes. It has no missile. It never did. It never will," a federal official told *The New York Times*.

However, Mr Sommer said: "The Navy has not been honest. It says no missile was fired that night. That is not true. It tells half-truths, half-lies and questions those who question it."

The report alleges that there may have been a hush-up because the missile was "probably" carrying a warhead of a type, banned under the SALT I arms treaty. It also quotes unnamed witnesses who

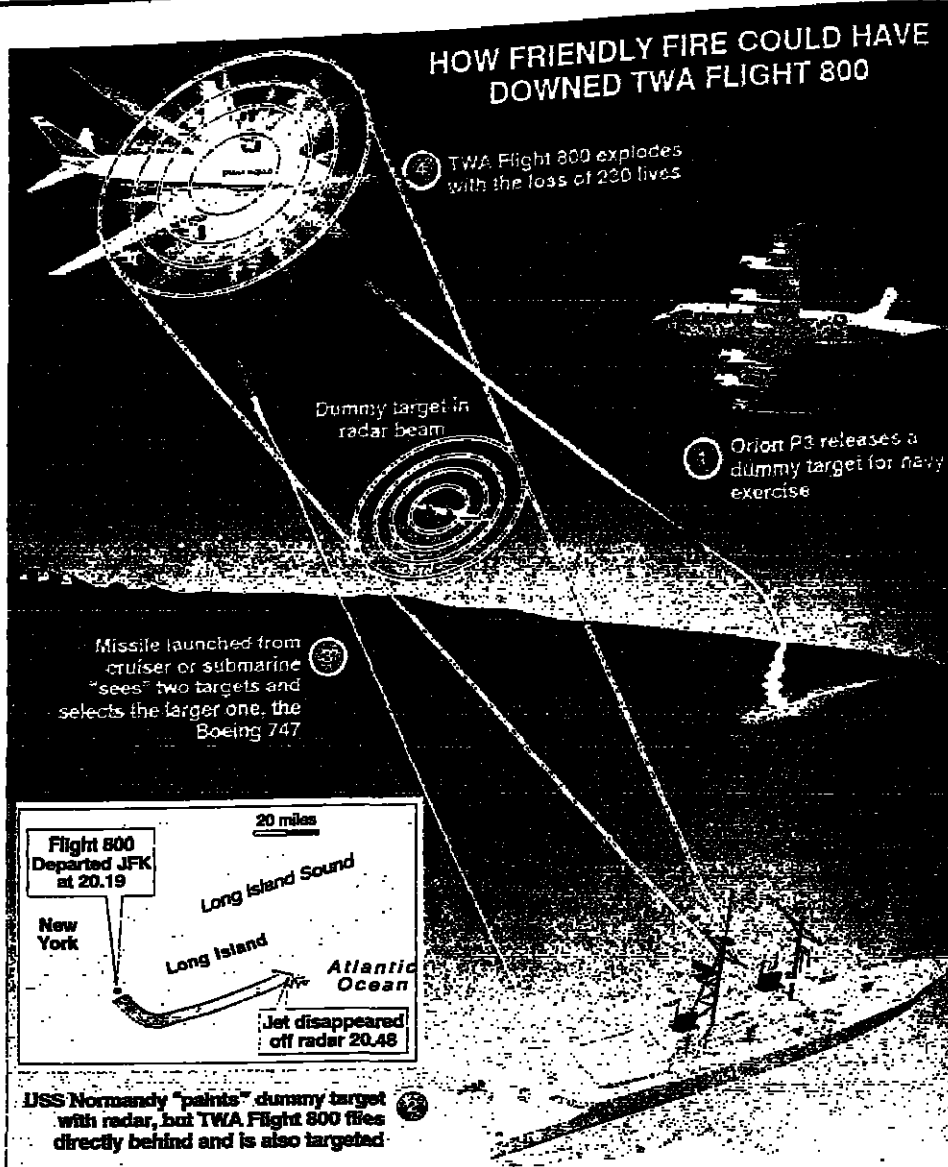
monitored anti-terrorism exercises on the day of the explosion, and who claimed to have heard a voice saying: "Oh, my God, I just hit that plane".

After the crash, "apparently as a cover-up, a missile ship involved in the disaster was sent out to sea via the Middle East and its crew dispersed around the world", the investigators said.

According to Mr Salinger's theory, a missile was launched at a dummy target, which the report suggests may have been a "Tomahawk cruise missile". The missile may then have locked onto the larger target of TWA Flight 800, which was flying "perilously close to the active warning area" and at a lower altitude than normal in order to avoid a US Air Force flight.

Mr Sommer said that evidence was compatible with two types of missile outlawed under international agreements: a continuous-rod missile which bores into a target, tearing it to shreds, and a kinetic energy warhead which leaves telltale pockmarks.

Brigadier-General Benton K. Partin, a former commander of the US Air Force armaments laboratory, said the damage sustained by Flight 800 could have been caused only by a banned missile.



FBI investigators dismiss conspiracy theory as 'bunkum'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN officials poured scorn on the TWA Flight 800 conspiracy theories being touted by Pierre Salinger, the former White House press secretary, and others who believe that the airliner was hit accidentally by an American military missile.

James Kallstrom, the senior FBI man on the case, said that the conspiracy theorists should "get a life" and that Mr Salinger's analysis of the crash, on July 17, 1996, was "just total nonsense; there is not a fact in there". An increasingly exasperated Mr Kallstrom added: "The theory that the US Navy had anything to do with this was put to bed a long time ago."

Other leading members of the crash investigation team lined up wearily to dismiss the Internet-based accusations of Mr Salinger. Kenneth Bacon, a Pentagon official, called them "bunkum" and a "rehashing of old theories".

He added, with heavy irony: "These allegations have been investigated time after time. They have the credibility of Pierre Salinger behind them and nothing has changed that."

Mr Salinger's reputation as a hard-digging newsman took a knock when he first produced his theory, only to be

surprised when reporters told him that the very same document which he was presenting as a scoop had in fact been posted for several weeks on the Internet.

Mr Kallstrom, who is assistant director of the FBI's New York office, said that the speculation was hurtful to families of the dead. "They are on this emotional roller-coaster," he said. "They tell me that they are just so depressed over these conspiracy theories."

David Isby, of *Jane's Intelligence Review*, said if a military weapon had hit the Boeing 747, it would have left distinctive debris off Long Island, quite unlike anything found in the flight wreckage.

Another weakness that can be noted in the Salinger case is the absence of any military witnesses. If a missile was fired from a US Navy boat, Mr Isby noted, it would have been seen by numerous sailors. "A hundred and fifty sailors and no one calls the press? Hard to believe in this day and age," he said.

On recent form, the American military has not been able to conceal even a bout of bottom-punching in the junior ranks, let alone a calamity such as the downing of a commercial jetliner.

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Berisha clings on as Tirana is swept by tide of anarchy

FROM TOM WALKER IN TIRANA

ALBANIA'S anarchy engulfed the capital, Tirana, yesterday, and the country fell into total chaos with its land borders, airport and ports all closed.

As foreign embassies began evacuating their nationals, President Berisha and the Opposition admitted that the country was beyond their control and made a united plea to the European Union for an intervention force. In the short term, however, the President's resignation seems the only short-term measure that can achieve any calm on the streets.

Heavy gunfire sounded around the capital as night drew in, and army tanks were reported to be heading for the central square. The city's prisons were emptied, including the two most important political inmates — Ramiz Alia, the former neo-Communist President and Fatos Nano, the Socialist figurehead.

Military arsenals around the capital were being looted all day, with streams of children, adults and elderly staggering away with Kalashnikovs, machineguns and ammunition. Albert Brojka, the Mayor of Tirana, appealed for calm from all political sides and religious groups.

"The people must help the police in their duties — and above all else they must not fire at them," he said.

While the street value of the Lek faltered only slightly, prices of food staples doubled and shops and warehouses on Tirana's outskirts were looted. Six hundred and fifty tonnes of flour were taken amid chaotic scenes at a Swiss-owned warehouse. "We called the police,

they came and left," said the tearful manager, Mustafa Koskija. The central market closed early after panic-buying of fruit and vegetables.

The British Embassy gave a "final warning" to nationals still in Tirana, and said it could not guarantee any subsequent evacuation efforts. About 120 Britons and 160 Americans were reported to be heading for the port of Durres.

South of the capital, most cars and lorries were heading to military arsenals abandoned by the police, and villagers could be seen trekking across country and along railway tracks burdened by weapons and ammunition.

Durres fell early in the morning. "There was panic everywhere, and when the gunshots began we just hit the deck," said David Wold, an American missionary waiting for a ferry to Italy.

All ships abandoned the harbour in the early hours as a rebel takeover became imminent, and by midday there were more than 50 vessels standing offshore. About 1,000 Albanians were reported to have fled on board, and many more were reported to be in small boats appearing off the

Italian and Greek coasts. President Berisha, under fire from all sides of the political spectrum, grimly carried on with parliamentary business. He swore in the new Government of national unity, but looked ashen-faced and tired. He did not make an address to the nation.

In Bonn, Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said EU embassies in Tirana should draw up a co-ordinated evacuation plan for all their citizens, but the overriding question of establishing an international intervention force had hardly been addressed.

Security sources with Western embassies in Tirana confessed that they had been wrong-footed by the speed of the country's collapse, and many governments must ask themselves how their intelligence gathering in potentially the Balkans' most pivotal state went so seriously awry.

Albania was one of the world's largest producers of Kalashnikovs, and the sheer scale of the investment in self-defence made by Enver Hoxha, the former Stalinist dictator, is now apparent.

The country also faces a major food shortage. Many farmers sold their land and livestock to invest in the calamitous pyramid savings schemes, and Albania is now reliant on Greece, Italy and other neighbours for its food supplies.

Last night Tirana hospitals reported a girl aged four killed and 26 people wounded by stray gunfire in the capital. Reports indicated that Tirana airport was in rebel hands.



President's family 'escape on ferry stormed by refugees'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE children of President Berisha and perhaps other relatives of the encircled, apparently doomed, Albanian leader were last night said to be among hundreds of refugees on the *Palladio*, an Italian ferry which docked at the port of Bari in southern Italy.

It had headed for the Italian coast after being overwhelmed by fleeing Albanians in the port of Durres. Italian police cordoned off the ferry and refused to confirm that Mr Berisha's children were on board, although they said it was carrying "an important cargo". Albanian authorities closed the port of Durres minutes after the boat left.

Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, called talks with his military chiefs at the Palazzo Chigi — Italy's Number 10. Italy fears a repetition of the influx of 1991, when tens of thousands of desperate Albanians in rusting ships poured into Italy after the collapse of the Communist regime. Many died when their boats capsized.

The captain of the *Palladio*, Ernesto Giardina, said a "ferocious crowd" had burst into the port. "We had orders over the radio to cast off and get out fast," he said. Durres was under siege from armed and stone-throwing Albanians who also tried to board another Italian ferry. A cargo

vessel, the *Giorgis*, with at least 200 Albanians on board, is also nearing Brindisi.

Italian reconnaissance pilots flying over the Adriatic said the *Giorgis* was weaving from side to side, suggesting it was under the control of the refugees. They said the Albanians were armed with iron bars, sticks and guns.

Earlier three Albanian air force helicopters had landed at Brindisi and their crews deserted. Italian military sources said there were women and children in the helicopters.

Three Albanian patrol boats carrying an unknown number of people also surrendered to the Italian frigate *Aliseo* in the Adriatic.



P.G. Wodehouse's work is rated high among European achievements, while Sophia Loren's décolletage is more stylish than that of Hollywood stars



Italians put Britain at top of culture class

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

OXFORD and Cambridge, the BBC, football, and — perhaps more oddly — P.G. Wodehouse yesterday topped a list of 100 "European" achievements and inventions trumpeted by a leading Italian newspaper as a response to the rising tide of Euroscepticism.

Corriere della Sera, noting that the debate on Maastricht was fraying tempers and emphasising divisions as the single currency deadline drew nearer, said it was about time Europeans — Britons included — took greater pride in what they had in common.

Italy's own contributions to the list of European triumphs feature strongly, not surprisingly, with Armani fashion, spaghetti, Dante, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Olivetti, the Mona Lisa, the Vespa, Italian shoes, Neapolitan songs, pizza (Neapolitan, not American in origin), Venice, Ferrari cars and Julius Caesar as the top Italian contributions to European civilisation.

More general, Europe-wide achievements envied and unmatched by the Americans or Japanese are held to be the Airbus, architects (from Renzo Piano to Richard Rogers), entrepreneurs (Luciano Benetton to Richard Branson), the décolletage — European women such as Sophia Loren display a cleavage far more stylishly than Hollywood stars, *Corriere* claims. Newspapers and books ("Gutenberg was one of us"), sausages and cheeses, coffee (with origins in Venice and London), beer, bicycles, high-speed trains, cathedrals and monasteries, and the bidet ("given a couple of centuries even the English will understand it") are all on the list.

The Mediterranean countries win praise for olive oil, wine, the siesta, and Christopher Columbus. Greece gave us Homer and the Olympic Games; Switzerland, the Swiss army knife and fine chocolate (with Belgium); Poland provided the Pope; Belgium, Tintin; The Netherlands, Van Gogh and Denmark, Lego.

Germany can claim the Mercedes, Beethoven, and (a controversial listing) Helmut Kohl. France gets in with the baguette, Cartier and champagne, and Spain with Don Quixote and flamenco. Nordic countries are in with the sauna, mobile phones, and Ikea.

But perhaps with one eye on Europe and the British election campaign, it is Britain which wins most points, with admiring (if slightly old-fashioned) entries for "incomparable" actors ("Rupert Everett to Hugh Grant, Sean Connery to Anthony Hopkins"), dramatists ("Tom Stoppard, John Osborne"), elegant shirts, Church's shoes, Agatha Christie, B&B ("Europe's answer to the motel"), the Barbour jacket, parliamentary democracy, television, sports from tennis to rugby, Shakespeare, the black cab, the mini-skirt, the Beatles and punk. The English language — as spread by the "incomparable" BBC World Service — is praised for becoming a universal language "despite all our attempts to mangle it".

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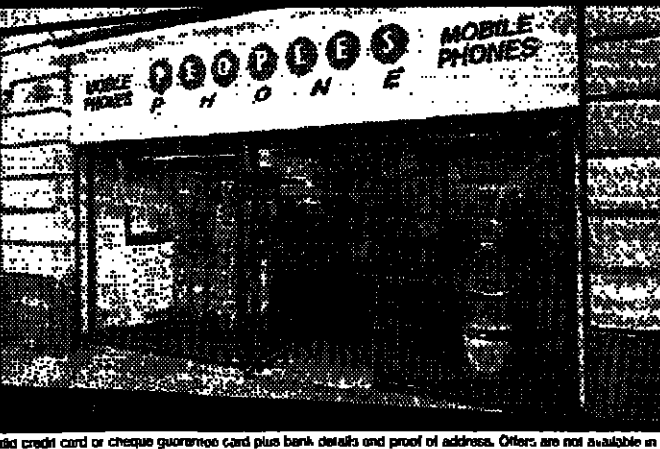
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Power suits and spike heels

MILAN

Shoulder pads plumped up an eclectic collection in Milan, which borrowed heavily from the 1980s, says Iain R. Webb

Whatever the mood at Milan Fashion Week, Italian fashion designers can always be relied on for a comprehensive checklist of forthcoming trends. The most obvious for autumn/winter 1997 steals from the 1980s. Power dressing is back in fashion, although the jacket has remained the mainstay in many wardrobes.

This season women will be able to drag their shoulder pads out of the closet and, once more, wear them with pride.

Designers in Milan also focused on the way in which men dress, as popularised by Ann Demeulemeester in Paris. At its most extreme, this means direct copies of men's trousers which hang loose and full (everywhere from Iceberg to Alberto Biani), but more practically it offers a pared-down approach.

Gianni Versace's reserve made his collection one of the week's highlights. Strong, simple lines — tuxedo jackets and coats, skirts which either skimmed the top of the thigh or the top of the spike-heel knee boot (an accessory you cannot afford to be without this autumn) and polo-neck sweaters which sometimes became a dress. His black leather was great, and, in a moment of pure flash, he showed multi-coloured, sparkly evening looks.

Giorgio Armani still makes getting dressed look effortless. For his Emporio line he added a touch of gloss to his understated silhouette. However, his eponymous line was almost entirely eveningwear, apart from a few sculpted, underplayed jackets. Despite the obvious question of relevance, Armani has the knack of making even the most baroque designs look modern.



Left to right: JIL SANDER, wrapover skirts; VERSACE, black leather; BYBLOS, slimline suits; PRADA, understated elegance



Left to right: MOSCHINO, knits; LAWRENCE STEELE, velvet; SPORTMAX, red; DOLCE & GABBANA, dramatic

Tom Ford at Gucci offered Schwarzenegger shoulders and spike high heels. He also showed knee-length skirts with flies (just like on men's trousers), fly-front jackets (no buttons), wrap skirts, wide lapels and drapery jersey dresses. Pointy red patent shoes

highlight a top-toe black look. Jil Sander's pure style is plain and to the point — a roll-neck sweater with a wrap wool skirt, a demob-style jacket with no fastenings, worn with baggy trousers or a slim longer skirt, and bias-knits which twist about the body.

Velvet dresses with cap sleeves and draped waistlines looked lush without being ostentatious.

The mood was equally pragmatic at Prada. Simple black overcoats and, once again, tuxedo-style jackets worn with pencil or wrap skirts, while

army fatigues and tracksuit tops (also seen at Gianfranco Ferré in ivory wool) were shown with beaded chiffon skirts. Dolce & Gabbana dropped their diaphanous chiffons in favour of sleek tailoring, yet the mannish, monochromatic Sicilian suits were dressed up with glamorous satin coats edged with colourful furs, or appliquéd and embroidered with red roses.

Labels such as SportMax.



MARNI: pure hedonism — velvet, leather and fur were the key fabrics in this collection



Left to right: MISSIONI, ALBERTO BIANI, ALESSANDRO DELL'AQUA

tured sassy-looking Babes in the Wood (think the Spice Girls meet Gretel) dressed in lots of pretty lace, plush velvet and snugly sweaters. Ferreri's mainline collection saw her trademark fragile petticoat dresses layered under ribbed sweaters or over narrow trousers. Best of all were flocked satins and layers of mocha chiffon banded with chocolate velvet.

There were great coats and jackets (cut soft like cardigans) at Moschino. Layered with shiny brocades, crocheted lace, rustic knits (sometimes beaded with rhinestones) and embroidered velvet, the models look like demented English nannies. A richly textured and extremely nostalgic look. Equally covetable was the collection by Missoni — this season their distinctive zigzag knits were coloured like autumn leaves or kingfisher feathers. Simultaneously sumptuous and slick.

Anna Molinari put pretty punkettes in party frocks and jewels. The clothes echoed her playful mood: a prim choco-

late tweed suit was trimmed with kingfisher blue fur. Best at Blumarine (Molinari's second line) were jewel-coloured velvets and sparkling beaded mini-dresses with matching gypsy shawls.

The Marni collection stood out from the rest for imagination and pure hedonism. Reminiscent of Yves Saint Laurent's Russian peasants of the late 1970s, the bloused

tunics and soft midi-skirts were truly desirable. High waisted coats embroidered with folksy flowers look fresh, while velvet, leather and fur were key fabrics.

Despite the obvious downside to watching show after show, with trend after trend repeated over and over, there were moments of glory in Milan — just few and far between.

Photographs by CHRIS MOORE/ANDREW THOMAS
Iain R. Webb is fashion director of *Elle* magazine

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THE TIMES

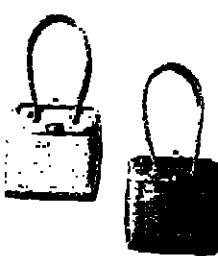
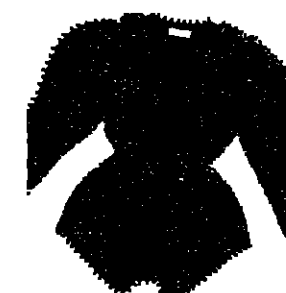
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Left above: Catherine Walker brown velvet dress (£300) centre: Anne Fowles purple beaded jacket in knitted yarn (£595) below: Muir and Osborne frock coat (£385) Right above: Bruce Oldfield jersey cocktail dress (£700) centre: Anya Hindmarsh shantung Daphne handbags (£216 each) below: Two Caroline Charles T-shirt (£21 each)



V&A

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CHANGING TIMES

Top: GUCCI, padded Above: ARMANI, pinstripes
MaxMara, Trussardi, Laurel and Byblos (now designed by the American Richard Tyler) can be relied on to show everything on the list marked "trend": look out for grey flannel and pinstripe trouser suits; cut and panne velvet; fly-front coats and leather (black, plum, forest green and chestnut).

The flip of all these down-to-earth, slick clothes were the eccentric, jumble-sale looks which owe much to stores such as Voyage and Steinbeck & Tolkien in London. Alberta Ferreri's Philosophy line fea-

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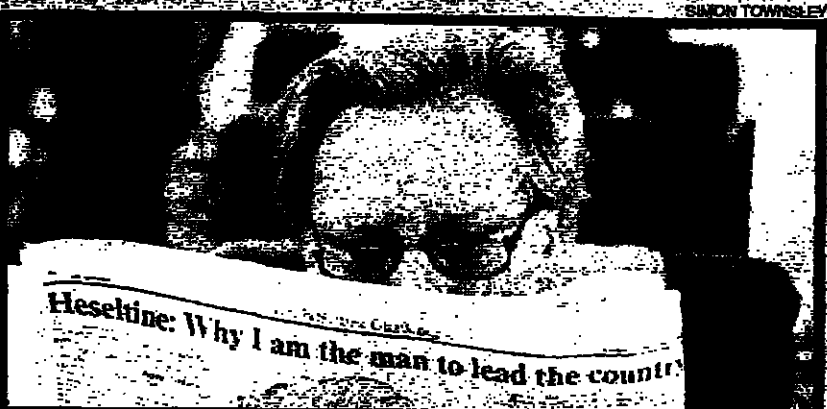
MICHAEL PORTILLO, Defence Secretary. Odds 3-1
Advantage: Euro-sceptic. Disadvantage: Spanish



KENNETH CLARKE, Chancellor. Odds 12-1
Advantage: scares Labour. Disadvantage: scares Tories more



MICHAEL HOWARD, Home Secretary. Odds 3-1
Advantage: shoots to kill. Disadvantage: often misses



MICHAEL HESELTINE, Deputy PM. Odds 16-1
Advantage: blond. Disadvantage: more than a gentleman



STEPHEN DORRELL, Health Secretary. Odds 5-1
Advantage: mover. Disadvantage: not a shaker



WILLIAM HAGUE, Welsh Secretary. Odds 4-1
Advantage: does nothing wrong. Disadvantage: does nothing

The Tories have been working on their Big Idea, this week — developing insurance policies to prepare for retirement. It is not, however, Peter Lilley's pension plans or Stephen Dorrell's residential care initiative which has attracted the most interest among Tory MPs, but the plans Cabinet ministers are making for the imminent termination of their own employment. The insurance policy they have invested in is a portfolio of backbench support for the leadership election they all expect to follow any May rout.

Like nuclear submarines, the contenders' campaigns will go on silent running from today. The display of unity required at the Tory party mini-conference, Central Council, in Bath this weekend, and the general election almost upon us, will make surface manoeuvres difficult, but occasionally evidence of campaigning breaks water.

It did so most spectacularly this week when the front page of *The Express* trumpeted an "exclusive" alleging that Baroness Thatcher was lending her support to a putative Portillo campaign. Like Elizabeth I, or a Cheltenham bookie, she has a habit of perennially changing favourites. Only last night it was alleged that Tony Blair was her real darling. The lady, however, is not for quoting and has protested John Major is the only man she wants in Number Ten.

Mischiefous spirits thought she might protest too much. Even more cynical souls detected the hand of one of Mr Portillo's rivals behind *The Express* story which suggested an unseemly haste to wear the crown on his part. The story, whatever its source, did not accurately reflect the bigger picture. In so far as Lady Thatcher has given consideration to a Tory defeat, and she intends to be seen campaigning vigorously to prevent one, her thoughts settle more on the

Before the general election has even started, the Conservatives are already looking to another campaign. Michael Gove assesses the chances of eight of the men who might make it after Major

message than the messenger. If the Tories lose, her first act will be to present her own analysis of why. She wants to ensure wrong turnings are remembered and the tramlines laid for whoever is to lead.

Friends say she is very unlikely to anoint an early successor and is far from inclining definitely to Mr Portillo.

If Lady Thatcher were to

pronounce definitively on personalities it would only be if a candidate from the party's European wing looked like outwitting a champion on the Right. If, for example, Michael Portillo and Malcolm Rifkind faced off in the final round of any election then the Enfield Enforcer could expect her backing against the Foreign Office. Flyer. Mr Portillo is known to enjoy the support of some of her closest allies in the Commons, including her former political secretary John Whittingdale, but recently he has been earning warm notices from centre-left MPs such as Nick Soames, Robert Key and Tim Yeo. By trying to stick to his brief, Mr Portillo has made himself acceptable to mainstream figures, but his reluctance to put clear blue water between himself and Mr Major could allow him to be outflanked on the Right.

While *The Express* presses rumoured on Tuesday evening, alleging a Portillo plot that never was, one of the Defence Secretary's declared rivals was presiding at a dinner that dared not speak its name.

John Redwood was holding the latest in a series of not-so-discreet dinners in Shepherd's, a Westminster restaurant where he and three

of his Commons supporters entertained a quartet of candidates who might be expected in the House in due course. The purpose of the gatherings, to show off Mr Redwood to the potential leadership electorate, could not be made explicit. Instead, the dinner was sold as an advice session on how to win the general election.

Mr Redwood complements the dinners with drinks parties for the media in the Wilfred

keeping the franking machine busy with his personal notes. Mr Dorrell has also been issuing invitations. As might befit an energetic steward of the nation's health, he has been sighted campaigning over breakfast with the cleverer sort of Tory, going to work on an egghead. Mr Dorrell's cause, damaged in recent weeks by gaffes on devolution and monetary union, still attracts talent.

Some of those who have talked warmly of Mr Dorrell in the past are now turning their attentions to William Hague. The Welsh Secretary, although only 36, and viewed as a flinty rightwinger, is seen by some of the Majorites who thought Dorrell might be the best heir as the truer successor. His recent engagement provoked one Westminster observer to put £5,000 on Hague's leadership chances, cutting his odds.

The backbench bandwagon with the biggest momentum, however, belongs to the minister most likely to put backs up outside Tory circles. The louder the liberals vilify Michael Howard, the more vigorous his support grows. A fastidious man, he eschews any campaigning himself, although he enjoys sparring matches over supper with bright colleagues and commentators such as the Stratford candidate and former minister Francis Maude and the *Daily Mail*'s Simon

Heffer. The efforts on his behalf are orchestrated by Sir Michael Spicer, a moderate Eurosceptic and protégé of Lord Parkinson.

He has already attracted David Heathcoat-Amory, Sir Ivan Lawrence, James Cran and Sir Nicholas Bonsor to a cause with which Norman Lamont and Archie Hamilton are held to be sympathetic. So, perhaps as crucially, is the *Daily Mail*.

There are two candidates, undoubtedly heavyweights, who also enjoy press support. Unfortunately it is the wrong sort of press. Both Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke are admired by the lobby and the liberal sections of the journalistic community, but that does not make up for a lack of numbers among the ranks of Conservative columnists and, especially, MPs.

and charisma after years spent stressing managerial competence, a leader prepared to end equivocation, a leader who will provoke howls from the high-minded but speak to Tory instincts — a leader, in short, like Lady Thatcher, or even, some might say, a Tory Tony Blair.

● Odds supplied by Ladbrokes.

Valerie Grove's interview with Roy Foster will appear next week.



MALCOLM RIFKIND. Odds 10-1.
Advantage: clever. Disadvantage: shows it



JOHN REDWOOD. Odds 10-1
Advantage: wired. Disadvantage: weird

Street headquarters of his private think-tank and a series of speeches round the country for aspirant MPs. Like Mr Chips, Mr Redwood takes a particular interest in making New Boys feel welcome. Recently, he has spoken at meetings for five candidates expected to make it into the Commons, even in the event of defeat: David Ruffley in Bury St Edmunds, Teresa May in Maidenhead, Laurence Robertson in Tewkesbury, and Gerald Howarth in Aldershot. Mr Redwood is not the only potential leader who is courting candidates. Several have received beautifully handwritten letters from the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell. Mr Dorrell has taken, according to one, including detailed advice on the state of their majorities. As well as

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help

Philip Howard



Will the great god Pan preside over our rite of spring?

Tony Blair is not quite Bambi. Nor is he exactly the Devil with demonic red eyes of the posters. But there is a case for claiming that he is Pan. For, as a lad, he played the modern equivalent of piper in a group. He has that fixed smile, as worn by the earliest statues of naked young men, and so known technically as "archaic". It is impossible for spectators to see whether he has hairy legs and cloven hooves at the Dispatch Box, but cartoonists contrive to give him the look of a Faun, Satyr or Holy Goat. Take in anachronistic references to Peter Pan who never grew up. And like Pan, Blair tries to be all things to all voters. Folk etymology derived Pan's name from *pan*, the Greek word for "all" or everything, and made puns about love conquering all, and Pan being loved by all the gods. In fact the Arcadian Pan probably came from stranger pastures to the east, as the pastoral Vedic god who was the protector and increaser of herds.

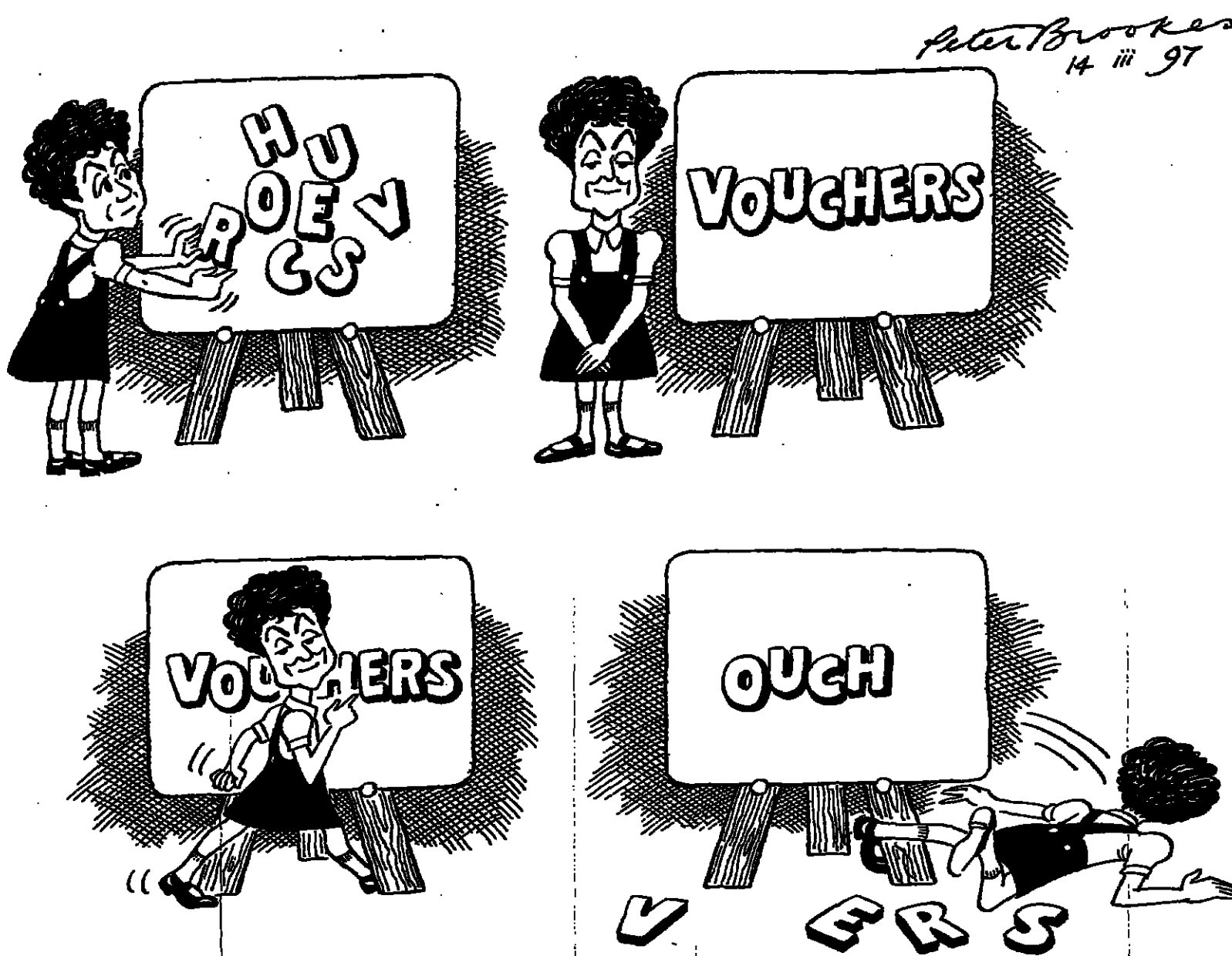
Politics needs such symbolism to simplify its message. Colours have been used for partisan identification since before the Byzantine riots between the Greens and the Blues. At Eatonsville (otherwise Sudbury, Suffolk) the Pickwickians observed the Blues or Tories campaigning thirstily against the Buffs or Liberals. Blue still signals Tory, with variations and deeper shades of blue in perverse regions. But the People's Flag is no longer deepest red, more somnolent salmon pink, with a red rose as garish with the watercress. Advertising agents get paid millions and ennobled for dreaming up such fatuous images as a shabby lion weeping red tears. It is strange that the expensive builders of commercial images have not come up with the notion of using the oldest symbols of all.

Perhaps they have. Are cartoonists showing John Major wearing his underclothes outside his overcoat? Hinting Superman, or even more improbably Hercules? Labour posters show a two-headed Major looking in both directions over tax. Consciously or not, they are echoing the two-faced Roman Janus, the opener and closer of all things, including elections. And on Wednesday night John Boardman, giving the Walter Neurath Memorial Lecture at the National Gallery, made these old images dance. So he brought the imagery of modern politicians to mind.

John Prescott, with his cruise steward's trident, could star as the bluff god of the sea. Poseidon or Neptune roaring at the passengers above the waves. Margaret Thatcher actually was known, by the brave, as Boadicea. There are several parliamentary candidates for Aphrodite in her nightgown: from Clare Short to Virginia Bottomley, so unkindly described by her poor man's Thersites colleague as "bone from the neck up". Ann Widdecombe for merciless Hera/Juno, the goddess of prison. Lady Olga Maitland for Iris, the rainbow messenger and servicable title-tattle of her superiors, and the Beast of Bolsover for artesian Vulcan.

But Pan has a far longer shelf-life than other myths. A cartoon showing a goat's leg sticking through the ceiling, and wife exclaiming to husband "I told you they were holding an orgy up there" is intelligible to those with no interest in the ancient world. In *Manhattan*, Woody Allen echoes the pipes of Pan with harmonica and innocents of Arcadia abroad in the city. So Pan still plays in art, literature and life, from Milton to Shelley, from Saki to *Private Eye*. Animal imagery also works for politicians: John Major as Pook or Mole, Blair as Piglet, Enoch Powell as Eeyore and Paddy Ashdown as Tigger. In that strange chapter in *The Wind in the Willows* called "The Piper at the Gates of Dawn", who appears having rescued Baby Otter? Who else but Pan?

Pan is an odd archetype. He combines bestial passions with animal nobility and innocence. His provenance from a lost golden Arcady plays an old tune on ancient pipes, and is a potent political image-bite. But even in Arcadia death as well as love conquers all. "The great god Pan is dead" was a cry heard by a ship sailing past the Ionian Islands at about the time of the nativity of Christ. Pan may be dead, but the old smile with the goat's horns and legs will not lie down. And his cloven hooves drum a reminder to politicians that all careers, however ephemeral, eventually come to dust when Great Pan is dead.



The day after defeat

The pressure on John Major to resign will be intense. He must resist it. The Tories need time to take stock

Oh come on, let's just say it. The Tories are heading for defeat. Granted, miracles can happen. Tony Blair might be eaten by a shark. The Archangel Gabriel might appear in Trafalgar Square on the eve of poll and command Britain to vote Conservative. Jack Straw might read his pager the wrong way up and pledge himself to the slaughter of the first-born. Though any vacuum as perfect as new Labour remains capable at all times of imploding, the vacuum chamber has been engineered well and plated in stainless steel. The chances of accident diminish as the clock ticks.

So take yourself to that likely moment outside Conservative Central Office in Smith Square on the morning of May 2, when John Major, in the dignified and steady way we have come to expect of him, steps onto the pavement to concede defeat. What happens next, in the few short minutes before national attention switches to Labour's Millbank Tower, could be critical to Britain. Should Major, there and then, declare his intention to resign forthwith as party leader? Neil Kinnock, close to tears, as good as did. The emotional pressure on John Major to do likewise will be intense. He must resist it.

Ready for the kill, the *Daily Mail* will not be pleased. Along with an assortment of commentators in other papers, its opinion columns will declare that the Conservative Party needs an immediate fresh start. There is no time to be lost (Mr Portillo's friends will say) in clearing away the baggage of defeat — of which the old Tory leader is part — and greeting the new dawn under new Labour with a new leader. There will be a good deal of metaphor, much of it mixed, about the raising of banners on commanding heights, the establishment of clear blue water, new tunes we can whistle, and the replacement of fudge by focus.

The incoming parliamentary Conservative Party should be given a few days to unpack its bags, sources close to John Redwood will hint; then, within weeks or at most months, MPs should choose Mr Major's successor. Give him or her the summer of 1997 to prepare for the first autumn conference in Opposition for 19 years. Let the party rally now, muster now, declare its new directions soon, then the long march can begin. That will be the cry.

To become the butt of such editorialising will hurt. Reading one's

obituary lowers the spirits, and newspaper commentary on the Prime Minister has even now begun to take on an obituarial tone. By polling day John Major will be exhausted and perhaps depressed. Nothing would be more tempting than to terminate the pain with a statesmanlike announcement on May 2 that he means to resign as soon as procedures for electing a successor can reasonably be set in motion. What, he will ask himself, is the alternative?

I can tell him, and some of his friends will tell him, and party members across the country should be speaking up and telling their representatives now. Mr Major should say there ought to be a leadership election — and (he should add) before too long. There are two questions for him, he should add: first, should that contest be before or after the party conference in October this year? Secondly, will he be a candidate himself?

He should confirm that he is not minded to be a candidate. And he should suggest that (whatever formal rights of tenure the rules accord him), the timing of the leadership election should be up to the new parliamentary Conservative Party, whose temperature he will wish to take quite soon. But if they think it makes sense to settle down a little first, in Opposition, and gauge the mood of the new Parliament and of the party in the country, then he is prepared to carry on as caretaker leader until a proper contest in (perhaps) November, but in any event within 12 months.

What are the precedents? Precedent does not, in fact, suggest there need be a leadership contest at all. Clement Attlee, defeated in the 1951 election, carried on as leader for four years. Sir Alec Douglas-Home, defeated in 1964, did not resign until 1965 — and then only because another general election was looming and he did not wish to lead the party into it. Edward Heath did not resign after his defeat in October 1974,

but was toppled the following year. Jim Callaghan stayed on for a year, until 1980. And those are the cases in which a Prime Minister who lost a general election did quit before the next one. That is not the rule. Heath was toppled only after his third defeat. Harold Wilson kept his job after losing the 1970 election, to win in 1974.

It is unlikely that John Major wants to carry on until the election after next. This we have to accept. What must not be accepted is that a leadership contest must be urgent.

Elements (in particular on the Right) are already quietly putting about that it goes without saying that there must be an immediate contest. It does not. Make no mistake: what the Right has in mind is a putsch. They want to bounce their candidates and their arguments upon a new parliamentary Conservative Party while it is still in a state of shock. This, they reason, is when their case for a dramatic change will sound strongest.

But if the argument for a lurch to the Right has as much underlying strength as it has superficial appeal, why should it be any weaker at the end of this year? By then, new Tory MPs will have had time to examine the arguments at leisure, and get to know the Right's leading contenders a little better. What is the Right afraid of, that it should want the contest so soon?

How can a new Tory MP, elected to Parliament for the first time on May 1, exercise an informed choice in the election of a leader when he or she has only around 12 weeks before the summer recess to get acquainted with the candidates? How can MPs properly consider their constituency associations when neither the issues nor the personalities have been aired in the Commons or in the press? How can the party nationally come to any view when there

has been no party conference to hear the arguments, discuss the policies, or view the seaside catwalk upon which the candidates can display their charms?

The choice of leader is a decision which the Conservative Party will probably have to live for at least a decade. It is a decade in which the whole politics of Britain is set to change. The Labour Party that Opposition MPs will face across the floor will be a new and different beast, taking the reins of government on the flimsiest of prospectuses about its intentions and plans.

What is Labour going to do? Will it be pro-Europe or (as I suspect) Eurosceptical? Will its domestic politics be radical or (as I suspect) tinkering, profligate or tight-fisted? Whose side will the Liberal Democrats be on? Will the Scottish referendum this summer plump for a consultative or a tax-raising parliament in Edinburgh?

Until we have the flavour of Labour government, is it wise to settle — perhaps immutably — the flavour of the Opposition? How can Tory MPs, even those with experience at Westminster, choose their field marshal, their weaponry and their mode of combat, until government has forced Tony Blair to show his hand? It is not as though there were any reason to rush. The Tories have until 2002 to prepare their next general election campaign. In the critical months during which Blairism is first observed in action, a leader with Major's assured and chairmanlike skills is precisely what the party needs as it settles its own responses. Fate offers the party what fate so seldom does: the time and space to look before leaping. It would be crazy not to take it.

Conceding the merits of my case, some may ask why now is the moment to make it. The general election is not yet upon us, quite. The result is not known. First things, surely, first?

No. A presumption can creep up almost unawares. Somebody tosses it out with a "naturally" or an "of course", somebody else repeats it as an acknowledged truth, and before a week has passed the whole world assumes it to be unchallenged. Soon we will be in the thick of an election with no time to mull over the assumptions with which we entered it. A presumption is growing that if the Tories lose then John Major goes — quickly. The presumption is unfounded, almost without precedent, and wrong. It should be rebutted now.

Give the capital authority

Tessa Blackstone on Labour's plans for Londoners

A fortnight after the Government unveiled its big idea for London, there is no evidence from the opinion polls of any diminution of Labour's lead in the capital. Selling off London Underground would, the Tories hoped, bring all those crucial floating voters in London and Southeastern marginal seats back into the fold. But was this ever likely? After the recent debacle of disruptions on South West Trains, are voters likely to believe that more privatisation is the answer to London's transport problems? The Tube is only part of the network; it needs to be considered alongside buses, roads, railways and the river too, as part of an integrated approach to London's infrastructure. London is crying out for strategic management in this and many other respects, but an ill-considered sell-off is typical of the present Government's piecemeal approach to London.

Many government publications declare that London is ideally placed for the new millennium. This is true in certain respects, but it cannot be said of the city's system of government. London government baffles foreigners, with its unique lack of a city-wide authority, and bewilders its citizens with a gaggle of acronyms that are meaningless to most people.

I have lived and worked in London all my adult life, and witnessed extensive reorganisation in local government, most of it unnecessary. Too many times in the past, the politics of government in London has been dominated by infighting and central government hubris. The London City Council, the Greater London Council and the Inner London Education Authority were all abolished, rather than reformed, by Conservative Governments. What we need now is a return to London-wide government with as little disruption as possible. Labour's plans for a new Greater London Authority (GLA) offer this. It is what the opinion polls say the overwhelming majority of Londoners want. In any case, after a period of consultation, Labour will give the public their say in a referendum on London government — a choice about their future which the Conservatives have denied them.

A new authority will give Londoners and London a much-needed "voice". It will allow a democratic expression of the capital's identity. The packed halls for last year's Architecture Foundation and *Evening Standard* debates on the future of London show the depth of feeling on this. London needs to make its own case in Whitehall. And when London bids for major world sporting events in the future, such as the Olympics, the world needs to know who represents public opinion in the metropolis.

The GLA will have a clearly defined remit and will be answerable to the people of London, the police and the fire service. It will be a streamlined authority, concerned with strategic problems such as land use, environmental planning, economic development and above all transport. It will deal with the capital's intolerable congestion and pollution, developing a city-wide plan for housing and urban regeneration, and setting and monitoring standards of environmental improvement. This entails democratising the regional quangos and providing an accountable authority for the Metropolitan Police, rather than the present system of reporting directly to the Home Secretary — a proposal with which the Commissioner and his senior colleagues at Scotland Yard agree. It will be much more open than the present system, in which responsibility lies with a secretive and obscure government Office for London, of which few people have even heard.

The new authority will work in partnership with the other agents of government in the capital. It will have no concurrent powers with the 33 boroughs, so avoiding the problems of the old GLC. Since the boroughs appear to be carrying out their tasks adequately at present, they will carry on with them. Some Tories raise the spectre of increased bureaucracy, but far from increasing bureaucracy, the new authority will reduce it, by rationalising the current patchwork of joint boards, voluntary committees and other complex arrangements. It need not incur any extra expense for London's taxpayers; indeed, it might save money.

For the sake of administrative simplicity, the authority could simply cover the old GLC area, which coincides with the London boroughs. For the sake of democracy it should be directly elected. Questions about the electoral system and the structure of the council are secondary. Whichever voting system is chosen, and whether representation is based on the boroughs or on European constituencies, the number of councillors should be small.

The people of London should be allowed a part in shaping their future. They need their identity and civic pride restored. They need their democratic voice to be heard again and London-wide services to be run properly. Tony Blair has said that an elected mayor would be a good idea: a further voice working with the GLA to speak for London. As a world city, London needs to be able to compete on equal terms with Paris, New York and Tokyo, each of which has its own city-wide tier of government. The Conservatives' plan is to sell off the Underground and hope that all will be well. Labour's plan is to offer Londoners a say. If the millennium is to mark the renewal of London, it should also mark the renewal of democracy in our capital city.

Baroness Blackstone is a Labour spokesman in the House of Lords.

Take notes

THE Bank of England is preparing to print foreign currency for the first time. Together with the printers De La Rue, it has put in a bid for the contract to produce 3.6 billion 100 and 500 rupee notes for the Reserve Bank of India at its factory in Deben, Essex.

For more than 300 years the Bank has worked exclusively for the British Crown, printing notes for Britain and the Empire. But it could soon be printing money from South African rands to Cambodian riels. The Bank and De La Rue will be in competition with 17 other international consortiums for the Indian contract.

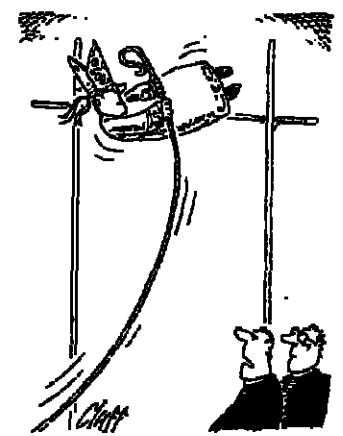
"This was an opportunity in the marketplace for us to test ourselves against the real commercial markets," says Nigel Bevin-Smith, manager at the Bank's print works, in an interview with *PrintWeek* magazine. "This is the first time we've been able to enter an international tender and the result will definitely have a bearing on our future."

In the swim

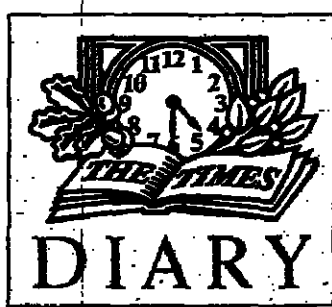
MICHAEL HESELTINE has donated a blue rubber flipper to

the celebrity shoe collection at the Boot Inn, near Witney in Oxfordshire. When first asked for a piece of footwear by the Daileys, who own the pub, Heseltine, who represents the nearby constituency of Henley, did not reply. The next letter he received told him that Douglas Hurd had had the courtesy to send a handsome size 12 brogue.

Heseltine quickly retreated to the boot room and replied by return of post with the flipper. At-



"Well that's Runcie over. Can Carey do better?"



tached was a note, saying: "I thought this might amuse you." Mrs Carole Dailey is now chewing over where to put it: "It belongs naturally with Hurd's, but then it might look better next to Janet Street Porter's seven-inch stiletto."

Net result

DAMIEN HIRST, pickler, and Keith Allen, actor, have together bought a fishing boat. Allen is so taken with the fisherman's life that he turned up at yesterday's British Council International New Playwriting Awards at the National Theatre in orange waterproofs. "Just back from the Devon coast," he explained. "Been fixing up the boat I own with Damien."

Hirst, who is better known for dunking fish in formaldehyde than for netting them, is said to be serious about his new hobby,

though more in a Devon-mists-and-shanties than an EU-quotas sort of way.

Drink on

THE tall spirit measures of Richard Burton live on among the Welsh actors currently rehearsing at the Donmar Warehouse in London. Michael Sheen, a Welshman himself is directing *A Bad Finger*, a new play about five men living in a Swansea junk shop. "Many of the cast are old friends from Wales," he says. "They get on too well and tend to prefer drinking



Hirst fishing

to rehearsing. After the Welsh Baffas, I thought I was going to have to bail them out of police cells, never mind dragging them into rehearsal."

Last toast

CHELTEMHAM yesterday was toasting Louise Cooper-Joyce, an unassuming Irish lady who bought the Gold Cup winner Mr Mulligan two years ago for a mere £18,000 on behalf of its triumphant owners, Michael and Gerry Worcester. Her very presence at the racecourse was a victory.

She was so nervous on the day before the race that she drank — at a conservative estimate — three bottles of champagne. She then got lost on her way to local lodgings. "We had English navigators," she explained. Yesterday it was strictly water for lunch with champagne only after Mr Mulligan came in.

Settling down

QUIET has fallen upon the nation's stately homes with the announcement that Lady Theresa Manners, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Rutland, is to marry. In the mid 1980s, Lady Theresa made news when she was caught in *flagrante* with a young man in a motorway fast lane.



Modern Manners

She then donned tight leather dresses to sing for the upper-crust rock band The Business Connection, while supplementing her income by working in a Chelsea Wharf restaurant. She is to marry a Canadian doctor in June.

Sir Edmund Hillary has chosen the coat of arms that will adorn his *Knight of the Garter* stall in St George's Chapel, Windsor: a limewood carving of a New Zealand kiwi holding an ice-axe.

P-H-S



CALM AND CONCILIATION

Middle East leaders must use tragedy to lower tensions

The shooting of seven children is numbing under any circumstance. On the first anniversary of the Dunblane massacre, the horrific events on the Israeli-Jordanian border yesterday have even greater resonance here in Britain.

But there in the Middle East, the motive was politics. Relations between Israel and its neighbours have been fraught since the exchange of letters between King Hussein and Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. When this correspondence is so swiftly followed by the savage actions of a single soldier, it is hard to see mere coincidence. The instinct of many in Israel will have been to regard the King's reference to a "very strong chance of violence" as provocation, not prediction.

That would be understandable but deeply unfair. The King's message was one more of sorrow than anger. Its dispatch and subsequent deliberate profile have, however, proved unhelpful. There were other and better means in which the same sentiment could have been conveyed.

The manner in which Jordan responded to the outrage yesterday should have gone some way to calm Israeli emotion. No excuses were offered. King Hussein expressed his condolences in strong and sincere terms and then abandoned his scheduled journey to Washington and the White House. The appearance of Crown Prince Hassan at the site of the slaughter reinforced that message. The firm words of the Jordanian Prime Minister, Abdul Karim Kabariti, were fully appropriate to the moment.

These may be symbolic moves; but the Middle East has been short of such symbols recently. The peace process has never been less than complex and convoluted. In the past two weeks a particularly poisonous atmosphere has developed. The challenge for political leaders is to recognise that tragedy will become all too commonplace unless much greater efforts are made to promote conciliation. A critical part of that cause is self-restraint in rhetoric. The decision last

month of the Israeli Government to proceed with the construction of 6,500 settlements in east Jerusalem was certainly contentious. But it was not a "declaration of war" as described by some Palestinian figures, nor would it "bury the peace process for all time" as King Hussein's letter suggested.

There are numerous steps each side could take to lower tensions. Yasser Arafat should postpone indefinitely his international meeting planned for this weekend in Gaza. If he will not, those who had accepted invitations to attend should now reconsider. Mr Arafat must also drop his frequent threat to proclaim unilaterally an independent Palestinian state. Such a move truly might bury the peace process. King Hussein could substitute a summit meeting with Mr Netanyahu for his cancelled appointment with President Clinton.

The Israeli leader too has gestures he can make without sacrificing principle. He could abandon plans to close the east Jerusalem offices of four organisations with ties to the Palestinian National Authority. His Government should liberalise the airspace arrangements between Gaza and the West Bank that have so aggrieved King Hussein. The Cabinet might also consider whether the beginning of the much disputed housing project could be delayed for the moment. The formula by which Israel intends to implement the Hebron agreement could be outlined and explained rather better.

None of these measures can mitigate the difficult negotiations that must precede any ultimate agreement. A premature attempt to rush those talks before broader confidence has been built would doom them to failure. An intimate relationship of trust between Israel and Jordan is fundamental to that outcome. Extremists on all sides will — as has again been demonstrated with the blood of innocents — do their utmost to destroy it. Middle East leaders are well aware of that reality. They must moderate their public words, do their best to be calm in the political mood, and resume the path of dialogue.

HOLE IN THE BANK

NatWest should listen to the Bank of England

This year, according to City estimates, some £3 billion — equivalent to 0.5 per cent of GDP — will be paid out in bonuses to a small number of bankers, traders and fund managers. This enormous transfer helps to explain the surge in prices of family houses in smart London postal districts and Georgian rectories within weekend driving distance of the capital. But it also raises worries about whether the structure of bonuses encourages City employees to take dangerous risks with their banks' money.

Yesterday the hole in NatWest's accounts as a result of "mispricing" by an options trader widened from £50 million to £90 million. This loss will be reduced a little because some £8 million of bonuses that have been promised but not yet paid will be withdrawn, and there are £5 million of provisions to set against the losses. But the difference between the £8 million clawed back from employees and the £77 million that shareholders will have to bear shows how unevenly the risk of trading falls on employer and employee.

Indeed, as a recent Bank of England paper on "Remuneration and Risk" points out, bonuses can often act as a perverse incentive on traders. Employees in effect have limited liability: if they lose a lot of their employers' money, the worst that can happen to them is that they have to forgo their bonus and rely on their basic salary alone, or they lose their job. The banks for which they work, however, may have to absorb many millions of pounds of losses.

The "upside" rewards for the employee can be enormous. Profit-linked bonuses are becoming ever more popular. In theory, this

should benefit both sides: employees are encouraged to make as much money as possible both for themselves and their firm. In practice, the temptation is to take excessive risks.

The fear of dismissal can also work perversely. If a trader has lost his employer a lot of money, he may decide to take bigger and bigger positions in an attempt to get back to profit. He may feel that he has little to lose and everything to gain by gambling with the bank's capital. After all, he will not be asked to compensate the employer for losses. But he may save his job.

Proper supervision of traders ought to limit the risky positions they can take. But, as a succession of losses has shown, from Barings through to NatWest, managers have often failed to spot problems before they become disasters. In complex derivative markets such as futures, options and swaps, the traders tend to be more knowledgeable than their ultimate bosses. They may succeed in covering up losses by manipulating prices or computer entries without their superiors noticing the irregularities.

Two reforms are clearly needed. First, control systems should be improved so that managers can keep a proper grip on their traders. Secondly, bonus structures need to be more sophisticated: based on more than simple profits, and deferred so that employees can claw back money if losses are made. Instinctively, banks may be reluctant to do anything that could alienate their star traders. But the examples of NatWest and others should make them understand that several good years of profits can be quickly swallowed up by one black hole.

JUSTICE DELAYED

The taxpayer is not getting value from the Law Commission

This Government has not been a legislative laggard. The Home Secretary and Lord Chancellor have been activist ministers determined to overhaul the creaking machinery of the law to serve the citizen better. There is, however, still a paper mountain of unfinished legal business which this Parliament will bequeath its successor and which even the most cautious jurist would consider worth placing on the statute book.

As our Legal Correspondent reports, the Law Commission has produced a steady flow of Bills designed to bring order to the ragged edges of the legal system. Most deserve speedy implementation: all deserve scrutiny. The neglect of the commission's labours does justice, and the taxpayer, a disservice.

The Law Commission is a creation of the Wilson era but governments of every colour have benefited from the work done by its lawyers to bring the law into line with contemporary life. Like Kipling's Tommy Atkins, though, it has been taken for granted save in emergencies. It recommended a change in the law to deal with mortgage fraud in 1994 which was broadly welcomed. Implementation, however, had to wait until after a House of Lords decision in 1996 which drew stark attention to the existing difficulty of prosecuting mortgage fraud. The problem was addressed with the Theft (Amendment) Act which became law

in December 1996, but by that stage many fraudsters had already eluded justice.

The commission currently has four proposals worthy of speedy scrutiny. It has been waiting since 1993 to see its suggested reform of the law on offences against the person, which is governed by a statute from 1861. Suitably framed, the commission's draft legislation could have been used to prosecute stalkers whom the law has found it difficult to tackle. Proposals to reform the law on manslaughter to allow prosecutions for corporate killing would bring Britain into line with other jurisdictions.

A suggested alteration to the law of contract to confer rights on third parties would smooth commercial life. It could allow a guarantee which covers the sale of one product such as a car to be transferred in turn to a subsequent buyer. Finally, reform of the obscure law on channel repairs would remove a hidden pitfall in property transactions which can land unwary rural buyers with five-figure bills for the renovation of nearby churches.

The law of unintended consequences may bedevil some of the Law Commission's suggestions. That was certainly the case with their recent family law reforms. But Parliament, once bitten, should not shy away from necessary change. Space should still be cleared by the next government for the undramatic Bills that can make a difference.

Questioning need for enlarged Nato

From Professor Sir Michael Howard

Sir, The Foreign Secretary's apology for Nato enlargement (article, March 8) is strong on dogmatic assertion but weak on reasoned argument (letters, February 12, 17, 26, March 3, 6).

He states that if Nato were not extended "the countries of Central Europe would fear that Russia was able to reassert its hegemony over them". The same, if true, would apply still more strongly to Finland and the Baltic states. Why are they not seen as initial candidates for admission?

Without extension we would be "creating once again a line down the middle of the map of Europe". With extension we would simply be moving that line a few hundred miles further to the east.

Without enlargement "new regional alliances might spring up". What on earth would be wrong with that — especially if Nato develops, as Mr Rifkin suggests that it will, "a dynamic partnership with countries to its east for practical co-operation and political consultation"?

"Neither the new Nato nor its expansion poses a threat to Russia". That surely is for the Russians to say. After all, we were taught during the Cold War to base our policies on the capabilities of our adversaries rather than their intentions.

To take account of Russian susceptibilities is not to accept their veto over our policies. It is simply to recognise that there can never be stability in Europe unless the Russians feel secure, and to ride roughshod over their susceptibilities is not a very sensible way to guarantee the security of their neighbours to the west.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HOWARD,
The Old Farm,
Eastbury,
Hungerford, Berkshire.
March 10.

From Sir Frank Cooper

Sir, The hard sell for the enlargement of Nato, led by the United States, needs to be challenged and fully debated. There must be no question of being railroaded into it. It is of fundamental importance to Nato's future and our future security.

The Foreign Secretary's article argues that enlarging Nato — a softer, diplomatic word for expanding — is a necessary step in making the whole of Europe as secure as Western Europe. What is the whole of Europe? Does it include all 11 aspirants? What reason is there to believe the present members of Nato will be any more secure? Will enlargement not create new political and military problems and difficulties? What are the ground rules for joining? What is the impact on the Western European Union?

It is essential to know the practical consequences of enlargement. A few questions. Nato works by consensus. Will this continue? Will the sheer size of an enlarged Nato significantly diminish its efficiency? What happens militarily if one nation disagrees with the others? Are the forces of any joining country to be integrated into the command and military force structure, including military headquarters? What about common logistics, supply chains and force inter-operability? Is there to be a collective air defence system? How much will it cost? Who foots the bill?

We must look to the future. Nato was built out of a clearly perceived need and at great but justifiable cost. Surely we now need fewer assertions, more information and more answers before decisions are taken? Let us know what we might be getting into.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK COOPER,
34 Camden Park Road,
Chislehurst, Kent.
March 10.

Liberal Judaism

From Mr Bryan C. Diamond

Sir, Ms Judith Da Fano's remarks about stopping Jewish men from thanking God in their prayers that they are born men rather than women (letter, March 5) should not be directed at any rabbi of a Liberal synagogue.

Since the inception of Liberal Judaism, a feature of our observances has been the equality of women and men, and the prayer to which she objected has never been advocated by any of our leaders and is not included in our liturgy.

From the first meeting called by the Hon Lily Montagu in 1902, it was resolved that a liturgy should be drawn up which contained "only those readings and prayers which combined historic interest with the spiritual needs of the actual worshippers".

The prayer books produced by the Jewish Religious Union, then by the Liberal Jewish Synagogue and the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues all meet this criterion.

Yours sincerely,
BRYAN DIAMOND
(Archivist),
The Liberal Jewish Synagogue,
Flat 2, 80 Fitzjohn's Avenue, NW3.
March 5.

Business letters, page 29

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Doctors' HIV tests 'a waste of time'

From Dr J. K. Oates

Sir, I fear the suggestion in your headline (Medical Briefing, March 8) that all British doctors should "submit" to HIV testing would be a waste of time and money if the object of the exercise is to prevent patients worrying about being infected with HIV by their doctors.

Dr Sturtford has told us, correctly, that as far as is known, only two examples of this taking place have been verified worldwide, so the actual risks in the UK must be very slight. There are however still going to be some patients who are worried about the risks of acquiring such a deadly disease.

Once a negative test for HIV has been reported on an individual, this can generally be taken as proof that they are free from infection. However, the individual concerned could become infected within days of having blood taken, or have been in the early stage of HIV disease when the standard tests may be negative. To exclude all these eventualities would mean repeated and regular testing of all doctors.

The costs of such an exercise would be considerable and raise many non-medical problems. Overall the situation is very different to hepatitis B which is much commoner than HIV infection and, more importantly, much more infectious.

Furthermore, hepatitis B testing allows protective vaccination to be offered to those found to be lacking in

immunity, something which is not yet available in HIV infection.

Yours faithfully,
J. K. OATES,
76 Glengall Road,
Woodford Green, Essex.
March 8.

From Professor Michael W. Adler

Sir, Doctors are at much greater risk of HIV infection from their patients than the other way round.

The call for screening of doctors, by they UK nationals or those coming from high endemic areas, makes people feel good and as if something is being done, but it is illogical and falsely reassuring. It could also lead to the call by doctors for all their patients to be screened, which would be equally misplaced and a huge waste of resources.

The correct way forward is for doctors to adhere to the very clear-cut GMC guidance which requires them, if they suspect or know that they are HIV-infected, to be screened, and put themselves under medical care. An infected healthcare worker would then be required to cease carrying out procedures that may put a patient at risk.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ADLER,
University College London
Medical School,
Department of Sexually
Transmitted Diseases,
The Mortimer Market Centre,
Off Capper Street, WCI.
March 10.

Rules of cohabitation

From Mr W. D. Conolly

Sir, Mr Hugh G. Meehan's letter (March 10) defending informal partnership against the formalities of marriage confuses the nature and functions of the State and of society.

The institution of marriage is recognised by the State, which arranges the formalities, as also the legal results of its termination; but it is society which recognises marriage and causes the State to formalise it and its results.

Mr Meehan's "partnership" may well last until ended by the death of one of the parties. The survivor, especially if there are children, will quickly experience the legal consequences of the difference between the two forms of association.

Yours faithfully,
W. D. CONOLLY,
3 The Slade,
Frofield, Petersfield, Hampshire.
March 10.

From the Archdeacon of Aston

Sir, Contrary to what William Rees-Mogg says ("Stand up for bastards", March 6) the Church of England does

recognise the validity of marriages contracted in a register office.

The function of a priest at a church wedding is to act as registrar, to lead prayers for the couple on behalf of the congregation and to invoke God's blessing. The two parties are themselves "ministers of the sacrament" and do not need the presence of a priest to validate their marriage.

Some time ago the Church of England determined to find a way in which, under some circumstances, divorcees could be remarried in church, but it has so far failed to produce an acceptable formula. In the meantime the distinction between marriage and remarriage is made by the legal ceremony taking place in a register office for those marrying after divorce.

Thus the Bishop of Birmingham's decision to marry in a register office and subsequently to take part with his wife in a service of prayer and dedication (report, March 4) accords with the current position of the Church of England.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BARTON,
Diocesan Office,
175 Harborne Park Road,
Harborne, Birmingham.

Devolution debate

From Professor Sir Alan Peacock, FBA

Sir, Sir Harry Hinsley (letter, March 6) is right in stating that the logical solution of the devolution problem is a federal structure, but his assertion that reference has not been made to this obvious consideration in recent years is wrong.

This was the essence of the proposal contained in the Memorandum of Dissent to the Kilbrandon Commission on the Constitution which reported in 1973, presented by the late Lord Crowther-Hunt and myself. Norman Hunt prepared the detailed constitutional proposals and I analysed their economic implications.

However, I must agree with Sir Harry in expressing concern at the

consequences of federalism for the overall size of government, which has led me and many like-minded liberals to regard privatisation as at least a partial substitute for devolution. Moreover, the uncertainty of the UK position within the EU introduces an enormous complication in designating the powers of each layer of government.

So far as present constitutional matters are concerned, perhaps a higher priority should be assigned to the problem of the "democratic deficit" created by the erosion of democratic control by the European Commission rather than to that perceived at the grass roots.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN PEACOCK,
146/4 Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh.
March 6.

Kurds in Turkey

From the Co-ordinator of the Peace in Kurdistan Campaign, and others

Sir, We write, on International Women's Day, to draw urgent attention to the plight of Leyla Zana, the Kurdish MP sentenced to 15 years' prison by the Turkish Government for speaking about Kurdish rights.

At her trial in a military court in Ankara in 1994 Mrs Zana was "accused" of wearing Kurdish colours in the Turkish Parliament, giving interviews to French television and addressing an American human rights body about the Turkish Government's repression of the Kurds.

At the time of her trial you commented in a leading article (August 4, 1994) that the "prosecution brings to Turkey no credit, highlighting instead the chasm that still separates that country from the Europe to which it aspires". You also expressed the view that the Kurdish question would be the rock on which Turkey's hopes of entry into the European customs

union would be dashed.

Regrettably this has not come about. A trade-off between the European Union and Turkey in October, 1995, abrogated Article 8 of Turkey's notorious anti-terror law in return for entry into the customs union. The price of this was the continued incarceration of Mrs Zana and other Kurdish MPs and the intensified repression of the Kurds.

Leyla Zana anticipated this situation, declaring in her letter from Ankara jail (report, September 7, 1994): "It is no longer possible to believe in Turkish justice". We share her belief and, for this reason, demand her immediate release.

Yours faithfully,
ESTELLA SCHMID,
Co-ordinator,
Peace in Kurdistan Campaign,
MARGARET DRABBLE,
ANTONIA FRASER,
LYNNE JONES,
44 Ainger Road, NW3.
March 7.

EU as scapegoat

From Mr Paul Caswell

Sir, Must we continually blame the European Union for absolutely everything ("Judge blames EU ban on caning for juvenile crimes", report, March 8)? Surely this ban derives from the European Court of Human Rights, which has no connection whatever with the EU.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CASWELL,
57 Hanson Drive, Fowey, Cornwall.
March 8.

Royal visits

From Mr John Taylor

Sir, I am surprised at Nicholas Oulton questioning the acceptability of Prince Charles making an official visit to Saudi Arabia (letter, March 11).

We do not live in a perfect world and Saudi Arabia has oil, Israel does not.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TAYLOR,
25 St Lawrence Avenue,
Biddborough, Kent.
March 11.

Right thinking on sinister trend

From Mr Gareth Glyn

Sir, All who applaud the efforts of Christopher Seed (report and leading article, March 10) to develop a piano for left-handed people should spare a thought for millions of right-handed violinists, whose weaker limbs have to cope with some of the most rapid and expressive passages in music. The same goes for all stringed instruments, even including the Welsh triple harp, where the melody is always played by the left hand.

Maybe Mr Seed is concentrating on the wrong instrument.

Yours faithfully,
GARETH GLYN,
Frogwy Fawr,
Llangwyllog, Llangefni, Anglesey.
March 11.

From Mrs J. H. Jacob

Sir, It was not only in the Victorian schoolroom that left-handedness was discouraged.

I started school in 1941. On my first attempt at forming letters in the narrow parallel lines of my writing-book, the pencil was moved from my left to my right hand.

I have been in two minds about the wisdom of this ever since.

Yours faithfully,
SONIA JACOB,
Manor House, Durrington,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.
March 10.

From the Reverend John F. Formby

Sir, Your leading article must have been great consolation to sinners, but it still does not explain why I, along with the 80 per cent of dexters in the population, find that as I hold my toothbrush in my right hand and squeeze my toothpaste onto it with my left hand, the printing on the tube is always upside down.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN F. FORMBY,
St Bernadette's Catholic Church,
160 Long Lane,
Hillingdon, Middlesex.
March 11.

Something rotten

From Miss Kathryn Dunning

Sir, I am very disappointed that Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet* will not be shown at cinemas within a reasonable distance of my home. I had hoped that I might see it with a group of friends, but we have contacted cinemas in the nearby cities of Hull, York and Leeds, none of which will be showing it.

Why is this? Do the cinema executives think that those of us living in the North are completely ignorant and afraid of culture? If so, they are wrong; or do they more probably think it is not financially worthwhile? This again is disappointing: surely they should try to support British films.

Yours faithfully,
KATHRYN DUNNING,
The Rectory, West Street,
Leven, Beverley, Humberside.

Do as you say...

From Mrs Sheila Rowley

Sir, Lord McAlpine says of Margaret Thatcher (Features, March 3, except Scottish edition): "While she may disagree with an individual profoundly, I have never heard her say a word to the personal detriment of even her most virulent enemies."

How offensively he fails to follow his heroine's example.

Yours faithfully,
SHEILA ROWLEY,
Tarronon, Lurks Lane,
Pitcombe, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Parking in The Mall

From Mrs Max Taylor

Sir, It is splendid news that Horse Guards Parade will no longer be used as a car park (report and photograph, March 7). How disappointing though, that the cars will be shifted to the side of The Mall. London is being choked by traffic. Why do civil servants need private parking on public land?

Yours faithfully,
CICELY TAYLOR,
44 Northumberland Place, W2.
March 7.

Surname usage

From Mr Tony Gray

Sir, Persons who corresponded with Jerome K. Jerome (or for that matter Ford Madox Ford) were relieved of the problem of having to decide whether to use Christian name or surname (letters, March 8, etc.), as the following verse of unknown origin neatly illustrates.

Said Jerome K. Jerome to Ford Madox Ford,
"There is something old boy, that I've always abhorred:
When people address me and call me Jerome
Are they being standoffish, or too much at home?"
Said Ford, "I agree. It's the same thing with me."

Yours faithfully,
A. A. GRAY (Honorary Secretary),
Jerome K. Jerome Society,
c/o Fraser Wood, Mayo and Pinson,
15 Lichfield Street,
Walsall, West Midlands.
March 15.

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OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL ROBERT COOK

Major-General Robert Cook, Signal Officer-in-Chief of the Army, 1989-92, and Director General, Federation of the Electronics Industry since 1993, died of motor-neurone disease on February 25 aged 57. He was born June 18, 1939.

Bob Cook became the Army's Signal Officer-in-Chief as the Berlin Wall came down and the Soviet threat to Europe collapsed. The Ministry of Defence had set in hand the strategic studies of *Options for Change*. The Treasury, however, had hijacked the work and turned it into a cost-cutting exercise to garner the largest possible "peace dividend" while the going was good. Cook and his fellow arms directors were soon faced with the task of trying to meet Treasury demands for cuts with one hand while conducting the Gulf War with the other.

Cook was the right man to fight the Royal Signals' corner at this crucial time. He was blessed with a sharp intellect and a real understanding of the rapidly advancing electronic technologies in the fields of command, control and information systems in war; he could also express their benefits lucidly to the Army Board. He had a robust personality, was a dynamic commander and an able staff officer — all of which enabled him to ensure that Royal Signals did not lose out in the struggle for resources within the Treasury's draconian financial limits.

Taking a personal grip on reshaping his corps, he wrote a strategy paper on the future command and control structure for the Army in the post-Cold War era against which Royal Signals' units could be justified. This turned out to be a remarkably perceptive analysis, written at a time when there was no certainty about the future size and shape of the Army. His work, reinforced by ongoing experience in providing the Army's communications during the Gulf War, laid the foundations of today's Royal Signals' order of battle.

Concurrently with *Options*



for *Change*, he was embroiled in the *Review of the Training Base*. He fought, perhaps over-doggedly, on behalf of his and the other engineering corps (RE and REME) for the retention of their apprentice and junior leaders regiments, recognising that their disbandment would seriously damage recruiting of high calibre young men (as has, indeed, proved to be the case). Sadly, his outspoken opposition to these and other changes may have played a part in his not being appointed CB in his retirement — in spite of his invaluable services to the Army and his corps over some forty years. Ironically, he heard just before he died of the return, in modified form, of

both apprentice and junior leader training. The son of an army officer serving in India, Robert Francis Leonard Cook was initially brought up in what is now Pakistan. He went to school first at Karachi Grammar School and then, back in England, at Welbeck College and Sandhurst before being commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals in 1959.

He showed his pronounced scientific and technological bent early at the School of Signals and at the Military College of Science at Shrivenham, where he gained a BSc in physics in 1962, and, after a further two years' research work, an MSc. Subsequently, he became a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical Engineers and a Chartered Member of the Institute of Physics.

plans and British lines of communication.

His respite from technology was short-lived: promoted colonel in 1982, he joined the operational requirements staff in the MoD where he was responsible for stating the Army's development requirements for future communications, intelligence and surveillance equipment up to and beyond the year 2000.

He was soon able to put Whitehall theory into practice in Germany where, in 1983, he was promoted brigadier with the two-hatted appointments of Commander Communications, 1st (British) Corps, and Brigade Commander, 1st Signal Brigade, which he was instrumental in forming. His outstanding work was the introduction of the then state-of-the-art Plasmigan area communication system and the early electronic data handling system, named *Wavell* (after the Field Marshal).

At the end of 1985, he attended the Nato Defence College in Rome, and then became secretary to the Nato Military Committee in Brussels. It was an exciting time to be in the Nato corridors of power. Events were pointing to the collapse of communism, and the Nato Chiefs of Staff were working in overdrive. Despite the pressures in Brussels, Cook managed to find time to gain a Master of Philosophy degree in Strategic Studies from the University of Wales in 1989.

After he became Signal Officer-in-Chief, a fresh reorganisation within the Defence Ministry led to his taking on additional co-ordinating responsibilities as Director General of Command, Control, Communications and Information Systems (Army) in 1990. Retiring from the Army in 1992, he threw himself with his customary energy into a second career as Director General of the Federation of the Electronics Industry; he was building a reputation for sound leadership and administrative drive among the leading electronics firms when his health gave way.

He married Gillian (Jilly) Margaret Lowry in 1961. His wife, a son and two daughters survive him.

PROFESSOR COLIN SMITH

Colin Smith, Professor of Spanish, Cambridge University, 1975-90, died of cancer on February 16 aged 69. He was born on September 17, 1927.

COLIN SMITH was a leading authority on medieval Spanish literature. His publications on the *Poema de mio Cid* profoundly altered the way in which that epic is viewed. His edition of 1972, based closely on the manuscript, challenged longstanding orthodoxy. Supported by the work of others that soon appeared, it set new norms and cleared the way for radical rethinking.

Smith was at the forefront of this through a series of articles which culminated in *The Making of the Poema de mio Cid* (1983), in which his view of the poem as the product of a single, learned author in a particular cultural milieu is set out most fully.

But perhaps Smith's most prominent achievement was the *Collins Spanish Dictionary*. Under his editorship it marked a major advance in Spanish-English dictionaries, with its wide-ranging inclusion of contemporary language, its lack of pedantry and its practical help that users seek in such a work. Smith's direction of subsequent updated and improved editions ensured that its position remained unchallenged.

Born in Sussex, and always keeping the soft burr of its accent, Christopher Colin Smith was educated at Virarnden School in Brighton. He first went up to Cambridge in 1947 to read modern languages at St Catharine's College. He stayed there for his doctorate on Góngora and his precursors, the subject of his first published articles. He lectured in Spanish at the University of Leeds in the 1950s and 1960s, when his first works on lexicography and on the medieval period were produced. In 1968 he moved back to Cambridge, to a lectureship in Spanish and to a fellowship at St Catharine's. He was appointed to the Chair of Spanish in 1975, and he filled it with distinction until choosing early retirement in 1990.

In addition to the *Collins Spanish Dictionary* and his



work on the *Poema de mio Cid*, Smith also published studies on other areas of Spanish culture, from medieval to modern, from chronicles in Latin to short stories in Galician. His distinction was recognised in corresponding membership of the Real Academia de la Lengua Española and in his appointment by the Spanish Crown as Comendador de número de la Orden de Isabel la Católica.

Remarkably, Smith was also an outstanding scholar in another field, British place-names. He had inherited his father's interest in archaeology and as a young boy he had taken part in several digs. Besides his several articles, his tome on *The Place-Names of Roman Britain* (1979), with A. L. F. Rivet, was a major contribution that remains a standard work of reference to this day.

Brimming with energy, Smith was no introverted scholar. He contributed greatly to his various universities, to St Catharine's College and to academe in many other ways. One of the most influential was his work for the *Modern Language Review*, the language journal of the Modern Humanities Research Association. He was the journal's Hispanic editor, 1974-81, and its general editor, 1976-81. This work and his great distinction

as a scholar were rightly recognised last year, when he was the honorary president of the Modern Humanities Research Association for 1996.

He was a popular colleague, lecturer and tutor. At St Catharine's College, to whose welfare he was dedicated, he unflinchingly offered time to those who needed it, along with a copy of the college's sherry at the appropriate hour of the day. His infectious good humour and sense of fun enlivened many occasions, and found other outlets in his production of cartoons, memoirs of a Cambridge bedder, pseudo-medieval ballads and the like.

And, as if this were not enough, Smith pursued his principal hobby to a considerable level of expertise. He was a keen amateur entomologist with his own fine collection of moths. His knowledge of them was encyclopaedic, and it was a matter of considerable satisfaction to him that, while on a field trip in southern England in 1990, he discovered a species new to this country, which he named the *Christine Chestnut*, declining to name it after himself in a typical act of modesty.

He was, also, a devoted family man. He is survived by his wife Ruth, and by their three daughters. His son predeceased him.

HELENA HAYWARD

Helena Hayward, OBE, decorative arts historian, died on February 17 aged 82. She was born on September 18, 1914.

FLUENT in French, German and Italian, Helena Hayward was quite at ease at the centre of a group of foreign art historians. Assembling them around a Chinese Chippendale chair, for instance, she would enthral them with her vivacity and knowledge. She understood that a good teacher needs to explain objects at first-hand, unhindered by glass cases or roped off areas.

Helena was the only daughter of Sir Henry Martyn, KCVO, Surgeon-Apothecary to the Royal Household at Windsor. After going to school in Ascot, she went to the Sorbonne and to Heidelberg Universities, and also spent a considerable time in Italy.

This explained her command of three foreign languages, although she also had some knowledge of Spanish, Danish and Russian.

In 1939 (on April Fool's Day, she liked to explain), Helena married the art historian John Hayward. He was called into service with the Special Operations Executive a few months later but as soon as the war was over he and his wife found themselves free to pursue their mutual interest in art. John Hayward was appointed a member of the Monuments and Fine Arts branch of the Army of Occupation in Austria from 1945 to 1947, and then, for two more years, a member of the Control Commission in Vienna.

These appointments gave his wife a superb chance to study in many foreign libraries and to examine, in detail, Baroque architecture and dec-



oration. In 1951, when her husband joined the staff of the Victoria and Albert Museum, she settled down in London to family life, and to writing and lecturing.

Helena Hayward's first book was a dictionary of 18th-century furniture maker, John Linnell. Her two-volume study (with Professor Pat Kirkham), of John Linnell and his brother William was published in 1980.

But it was as a teacher that she became best known. She lectured at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and for six years taught the silver and furniture courses at the Study Centre for the History of the Fine and Decorative Arts which her friend Erica O'Donnell had founded in 1964. Helena Hayward would also accompany her husband to the venues of the Avingham Summer School, to study the country house and its contents. She gave help to this school for many years, becoming its co-director in 1971, and then for ten years, 1976-85, its director. An Avingham scholarship was endowed in her name in 1991.

Although an enthusiastic and charismatic personality, Helena Hayward always maintained a courteous tactful approach to house owners, whose knowledge of their own possessions was often less precise than her own. When they claimed that an Art Nouveau chair, for instance, was one that had been used at George II's Coronation, Helena would say nothing to disconcert them.

In 1984 a lavish party was thrown at Cliveden to celebrate her 80th birthday. Assembled friends paid tribute to a remarkable life. Her husband died in 1983 and she is survived by a son and daughter.

JOHN CHAPMAN

John Chapman, CB, naval architect, died on February 25 aged 97. He was born on December 28, 1899.

IN A lengthy career in ship design John Henry Benjamin Chapman worked on vessels ranging from aircraft carriers and cruisers to submarines and lifeboats. He was only 14 when he joined the Royal Dockyard, Devonport, as a shipwright apprentice. He studied hard, passed his professional examinations and was appointed to the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, as a constructor cadet.

After short periods at Chatham and at sea in the battleships *Resolution* and *Revenge* he was appointed, in 1923, to the Admiralty on the staff of the director of naval construction to assist first in the design of the *Kent* and *London* cruiser classes, and then to work in the submarine section.

In 1929 his special experience in underwater craft led to his joining the staff of Rear-Admiral Submarines at Fort Blockhouse, Gosport. The "O", "P" and "R" classes, the first submarines of post-First World War design, were just coming into service. In addition to attending the first of their speed and deep diving trials he had the sad task of advising on the salvaging of the prototype aircraft-carrying submarine *M2* which had sunk while on trials in West Bay off Portland Bill. Although the submarine remains to this day at the bottom of the sea, Chapman received

a personal commendation from the Admiralty Board for his part in the operation.

In 1933 he spent three years at Portsmouth in charge of the reconstruction of the battle cruiser *Repulse*. In 1936, when the rebuilding of the fleet was getting into its stride, he moved to Scotland to oversee the building of the aircraft carrier *Implacable* and the



cruisers *Liverpool* and *Glasgow*, as well as the submarines *Cachalot* and *Tribune*.

In 1939 he returned to the Admiralty to take charge of aircraft operating and handling equipment. This involved liaison with the Air Ministry. He was also concerned with the fitting in merchant ships of rocket catapults for the launching of Hurricane aircraft for convoy defence.

With the passing of the Lend-Lease Act, repairs and refits of British ships were undertaken in US Navy yards and in 1941 a liaison staff of experienced naval construc-

tors, including Chapman, was sent to America. Chapman joined the British Admiralty repair mission in Washington.

As American aid expanded, he also became concerned with the fitting out of new construction ships before their transfer to the Royal Navy, spending much of his time overseeing the work in shipyards in the United States and on the west coast of Canada. He remained in the US until the close of 1944 when he returned to the Admiralty at Bath, now in the rank of chief constructor.

A period of general design duties followed. In 1951 he was promoted to assistant director and moved into the more academic field of research and development. In 1954 he was made the principal deputy and in 1958 became Director of Naval Construction and thus chief warship designer in the new Ship Department of the Ministry of Defence. He was appointed CB in 1957.

On retirement in 1961 he became a director of Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering, and a member of the council and a vice-president of the Royal Institute of Naval Architects. He was on the management committee of the RNLI and as technical consultant was closely involved with the change from the old-fashioned double-ended lifeboats to the modern Arun, Bede and Mersey classes.

In his later years he lived in Bosham, West Sussex. His wife Dorothy died in 1991 and he is survived by their son and daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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THE CHILDREN'S CHARTER.

EDUCATION BILL IN THE COMMONS.

WESTMINSTER, Wednesday

"This Bill asserts the principle of the rights of youth," Mr Fisher declared in commending the Education Bill to the House of Commons tonight. This was the keynote of the Minister's eloquent appeal for the new Children's Charter. He completely shattered the case of his critics, in a speech distinguished as much by its delightful phrasing as by its clear and convincing argument.

Sir Mark Sykes warmly defended the Bill as an emergency measure, which, in the circumstances of the time, it was the duty of Parliament to pass. He found two serious defects in our present system of education: it seemed to be devised to teach children a certain number of mental tricks and nothing more, and it made the teaching profession a blind alley. The only complaint he had against the Bill was that it did not allow quite enough scope for parental responsibility.

Mr Fisher's vindication of his proposals was exhaustive and conclusive. The cardinal

ON THIS DAY

March 14, 1918

H.A.L. Fisher's Education Act raised the school-leaving age to 14. But his proposals for "continuation schools" and for classes limited to 30 were victims of the Geddes Axe in 1922.

principle of the Bill, he pointed out, was the provision making local authorities responsible for all kinds of education in their areas. Replying to the arguments urged against the Bill, Mr Fisher denied that public education weakened the sense of parental responsibility. Education, he declared, was not one of the black arts; its function was not to suppress individuality, but to develop it. The object of the Bill was to provide the greatest possible number of outlets for talent of all descriptions.

Mr Fisher gave a rough estimate of the cost of some of the leading provisions of the Bill. The cost of raising the school age would amount to £1,000,000 a year, and of the proposals for continuation education, on the assumption that the size of the classes was limited to 30, to £8,750,000. Nursery schools would absorb another £900,000, to be divided between rates and taxes. The subject of nursery schools led the Minister to discuss the provisions for physical education, on which he laid great stress. The proposals must greatly improve the health of people.

Passing to the moral purpose of the Bill, Mr Fisher contended that the Bill would give the children of poorer parents some measure of the guidance which was universally claimed for the children of richer homes. He asked the House not to suppose that the influence of the continuation school would be limited to the statutory hours of work. Private reading would be encouraged and homework invited, and the school would be a natural introduction to all useful societies formed for artistic or social purposes.

If a really effective scheme of selection in this country was wanted, he believed that nothing better could be got than a general system of day continuation education, which would enable boys and girls of ability to be picked out at different stages of their development to be pushed on to the careers for which their natural aptitude fitted them.

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NEWS

Israeli schoolgirls shot dead

Arab-Israeli tensions rose to danger point last night after a uniformed Jordanian soldier shot dead seven Jewish schoolgirls. Israeli ministers blamed King Hussein for provoking the attack with his recent criticism of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Five of the girls died in a Jordanian hospital. Their bodies were taken to Israel for funerals which are expected to prompt an outpouring of national grief. Pages 1, 15, 21

Candles for Dunblane victims

Throughout Dunblane and over all of Scotland, the anniversary of the massacre on March 13 last year was marked by small but poignant tributes to the 16 children and their teacher who died at the hands of Thomas Hamilton. Across the country, candles were lit at 7pm. Page 1

Gay ban pledge

The Labour leadership has made a decisive shift towards lifting the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces in spite of opposition from the service chiefs. Jack Straw says it will go. Page 1, 9

Post-prandial chat

The dinner-party guests who appeared in a Channel 4 documentary which portrays them as right-wing bigots defended their views at a hastily arranged meeting in a Suffolk pub. Page 3

Pupils mourned

Pupils and staff at Harrogate Grammar School mourned four of their brightest A-level students. The girls died in a car crash during a lunch-break excursion to a pub. Page 5

Provocative Carey

The Archbishop of Canterbury is about to provoke more controversy with comments on "rave" services and the Royal Family's role in the Church. Page 6

Baby in jail

Roisin McAliskey is to be allowed to keep her baby, which is due in May, with her in Holloway jail for nine months, the prison service announced. Page 8

Law reforms delayed

The Law Commission accused the Government of wasting taxpayers' money by delaying the implementation of many law reforms. Page 9

White Cliffs of Dover are dunghills

The White Cliffs of Dover are made from the dung of microscopic shrimps whose droppings settled on the seabed and were later exposed, geologists believe. The chalk that makes up the cliffs and lies under much of Britain has a purity and whiteness that has always been a puzzle, says a booklet linked to a BBC television programme. Page 3



Britons waiting to leave Albania outside the British Embassy in Tirana. Rebels looted the capital's airport yesterday. Pages 1, 17

BUSINESS

NatWest NatWest Group's investment banking arm suspended four more members of staff as losses on derivatives trading widened to £90 million. Page 25

Pensions: Legal & General is to begin selling pensions by telephone. The move will raise further questions about the way pensions are sold. Page 25

N Brown: The mail order company is expected to raise £250 million from shareholders to fund the acquisition of the Freemans catalogue from Sears. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 24.8 points to close at 4397.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 96.8 to 97.0 after a rise from \$1.5930 to \$1.5975 and from DM2.7105 to DM2.7173. Page 28

SPORT

Racing: Tony McCoy, who won the Champion Hurdle on Tuesday, completed a notable double on the 20-1 chance Mr Mulligan in the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Page 48

Cricket: Two England captains, Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, will join the new chairman of selectors, David Graveney, in choosing the national team. Page 48

Rugby union: Injuries have forced Iwan Evans, Scott Gibbs and Colin Charvis out of the Wales team against England. Jonathan Davies will be playing his final international. Page 48

Football: Paul Merson, the Arsenal midfielder, will miss most of the remainder of the FA Carling Premiership campaign after a hernia operation. Page 42

ARTS

Shrink on stage: The psychoanalyst Melanie Klein, famous for her theories about sadism in children's games, is to be portrayed on stage by Gemma Jones. Page 35

Rostropovich celebrates: Marking his 70th birthday, the great Russian cellist and conductor Mstislav Rostropovich led the London Symphony Orchestra through a programme of music originally inspired and premiered by him. Page 35

Pop on Friday: Alan Jackson meets Michael Franti, one American rapper who doesn't preach a hate message; David Sinclair reviews albums from My Life Story and Aerosmith; and Caitlin Moran beseeches adults to stop discussing the Spice Girls. Page 36-37

FASHION

Power cuts: The cut at Milan fashion week is for power dressing, writes Iain R. Webb, as the shoulder-pad nudges its way back into the jacket. The most obvious trend for autumn/winter 1997 steals from the 1980s. Page 18

FEATURES

Big idea: The Tories are working on developing insurance policies to prepare for retirement — their own. They are studying backbenchers' potential support for the leadership election they all expect to follow a general election rout. Page 19

EDUCATION

Testing time: What kind of questions can 11-year-olds expect to find in the national tests in English, mathematics and science that take place in May? Page 39

Euro-study: As business becomes increasingly international and graduates widen their employment horizons, continental colleges are fighting back for a share of the MBA market. Page 40

THE PAPERS

The nuclear fear is one of the last fantasies of the era. Now that the east-west apocalypse has fallen into oblivion, ecologists are tying themselves in knots to refuel the fires of anguish. Without great success: for years the French have listened to this refrain and then gone back to their own affairs. — *Le Figaro*

TODAY

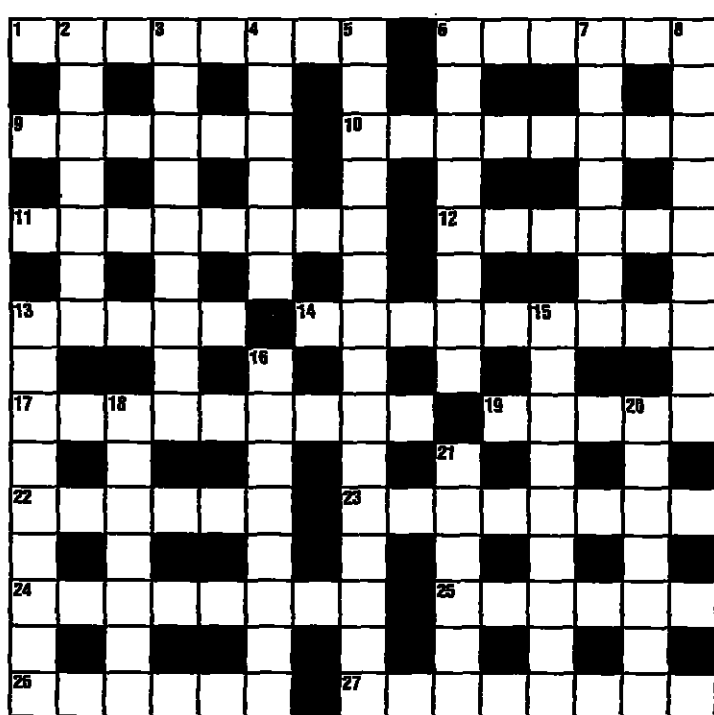
IN THE TIMES

WEEKEND Janine di Giovanni celebrates the first man in every woman's life

MONEY Your retirement should be free of money worries, but are you saving enough?



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,427



- ACROSS**
- It makes the boss right, having a fixed wage (3,5).
 - Sweet and stupid enough to be a model, from what we hear (6).
 - Selfishness, say, is in order (6).
 - Desires to dine — room for two here (4,4).
 - Paper that provides scattered coverage of matches (8).
 - Kind of art needing notes to make meaning clear (6).
 - Awake in a prison (5).
 - Get garage to break down sum total (9).
 - A reference letter changed initially gives one worry (9).
 - Produced a crafty lead — one light as a result? (5).
 - A little person at an instrument might play this (6).
- DOWN**
- Great lover — or abandoned law-breaker (8).
 - Cook undone in disparaging reference (8).
 - Didn't disagree, as Homer sometimes did (6).
 - Quickly repaired outside of vessel audibly criticised (6).
 - Bird getting sunfish (8).
 - Prepare legal document for arrest (7).
 - Miser fell on pirate captain (9).
 - It's cold outside (6).
 - Plane with storage places for footwear (10,5).
 - These drawing instruments can become rulers (8).
 - Rome can represent another Italian city (7).
 - Legal document in, for example, Lady Chatterley's Lover action (5,4).
 - Scottish philosopher presenting a mother's story for listeners (4,5).
 - Gone for first in, or daughter going into dinner, say (4,5).
 - Got hold of fudge and ate it (8).
 - Losing first wicket spoils team's score (7).
 - Nearest cooking may be Oriental (7).
 - In a state, finish things that have to be done (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,426

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GENTLE MISTRI
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Times Two Crossword, page 48

AA INFORMATION

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HIGHEST & LOWEST
Yesterday's highest day temp: Bathwick, 10C; London, 12C; Lowest day max: Lough, 5C; Lowest night min: Lough, 0C; Highest night min: Lough, 10C; Highest night min: Lough, 10C.

NEAREST & LOWEST
Yesterday's highest day temp: Bathwick, 10C; London, 12C; Lowest day max: Lough, 5C; Lowest night min: Lough, 0C; Highest night min: Lough, 10C; Highest night min: Lough, 10C.

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FORECAST

General: England and Wales will soon become dry with sunny intervals as rain over eastern England clears during the morning. However, south-west England and west Wales will become cloudy again with some rain or drizzle. It will be mild generally.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mainly dry at first with bright or sunny spells, but rain over northern Scotland will edge slowly south during the day. Northern Ireland will become cloudy later. Rather cold in the far north, but mild elsewhere.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E England, NE England, Borders: any rain soon clearing, then dry with sunny intervals. Wind westerly, fresh, becoming moderate. Max 12C (54F)

Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Central N England: dry with sunny intervals. Wind westerly, fresh, becoming moderate. Max 11C (52F)

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England: rain at first, but becoming brighter. Perhaps some wintry showers later. Wind fresh to strong, northeasterly. Rather cold. Max 4C (39F).

Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: rain spreading northeast across most parts, then mainly dry. Becoming warm generally.

Lake District: dry at first, some bright or sunny intervals, but becoming cloudy with rain or drizzle. Wind westerly, strong, becoming moderate or fresh. Max 10C (50F).

Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: mainly dry, bright or sunny intervals. Rain or drizzle later. Wind westerly, fresh to strong, becoming moderate. Max 11C (52F)

Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NW Scotland: cloudy, rain at times. Wind fresh to strong, westerly, moderating later. Max 9C (48F)

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: rain at first, but becoming brighter. Perhaps some wintry showers later. Wind fresh to strong, northeasterly. Rather cold. Max 4C (39F).

Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: rain spreading northeast across most parts, then mainly dry. Becoming warm generally.

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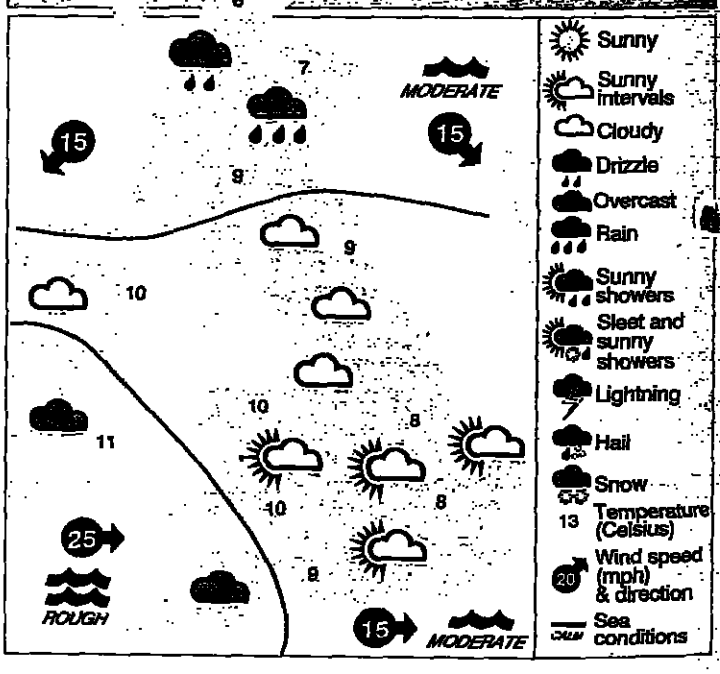
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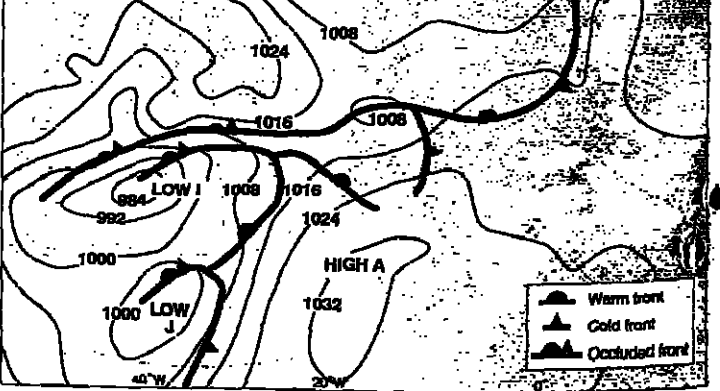
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NOON-TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low 1 will push northwards and deeper, high A will be slow-moving with little change in central pressure



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	05:16	7.3	17:43	6.9	Leith	05:15	5.2	16:42	6.2
Aberdeen	04:54	4.0	17:17	4.0	Liverpool	05:21	9.0	14:55	8.9
Amersham	10:46	12.5	22:08	11.9	Lowest	05:15	6.5	15:49	6.3
Belfast	02:36	3.3	16:03	3.3	Margate	03:21	4.7	15:49	4.4
Birkenhead	10:31	11.6	22:44	11.1	Milford Haven	05:51	6.5	22:09	6.2
Cardiff	08:25	5.1	21:42	5.0	Newquay	08:47	6.5	21:05	6.2
Devonport	02:17	6.8	14:42	6.3	Oban	09:12	3.4	21:10	3.0
Dover	03:03	3.8	15:30	4.0	Pontacres	09:08	5.2	20:30	5.0
Dublin (N Wall)	05:56	4.9	17:13	4.6	Portsmouth	10:20	1.8	22:33	1.7
Greenock	03:49	3.4	16:13	3.5	Southampton	02:42	4.8	15:02	4.4
Harwich	05:06	4.1	15:31	3.8	Sharnham	02:55	6.1	14:50	5.9
Holyhead	01:42	5.3	14:07	5.3	Southampton	02:55	6.1	14:50	5.9
Hull (Abdn D)	09:50	8.3	22:11	8.3	Swansea	09:54	8.8	22:14	8.4
Ilfracombe	09:34	8.7	21:43	8.3	Tees	07:20	5.0	19:40	5.0
King's Lynn	05:55	6.1	22:13	6.1	Warrington	03:00	4.3	15:26	3.9

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises:	6:17 am	Sun sets:	6:04 pm
London 6:04 pm to 6:15 am			
Bristol 6:14 pm to 6:25 am			
Manchester 6:11 pm to 6:24 am			
Penzance 6:26 pm to 6:36 am			

First quarter March 16

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Bonuses

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handedness; devolution; Kurds in
Turkey; parking in the Mall;
Branagh's Hamlet

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ECONOMICS

Anatole Kaletsky
looks at Germany's
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EDUCATION

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SPORT

McCoy takes
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to new heights
PAGES 42-48

TELEVISION
AND
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FRIDAY MARCH 14 1997

Bonuses cut by £8m as loss on derivatives trading book widens to £90m

NatWest suspends another four staff

By JON ASHWORTH

NATWEST Group's investment banking arm has suspended four more members of staff and cut £8 million off bonuses, as losses on its derivatives trading book widened to £90 million.

Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Markets, and an active member of the Salvation Army, has agreed to forgo £200,000 of his £500,000 performance-related bonus for 1996. NatWest says that mispricing of interest rate options

into potential management and control failings. Mr Wanless said: "It is extremely regrettable that the losses and the mispricing have gone undetected for so long. Although confined to one area, this is a significant setback for NatWest Markets. We must continually improve our management and control systems. The lessons learnt from this incident are already being put into practice."

Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman of NatWest Group, pledged his support. He said: "The overall business of NatWest Markets has made great strides in recent years, and our commitment to its development into a global investment bank remains unaltered. This incident has rightly caused concern both inside and outside the bank."

He added: "The investigation is independent and thorough, and we will not hesitate to take all appropriate action as a result of its findings."

The Serious Fraud Office said it had been contacted by NatWest but has yet to launch an investigation. It was in touch with regulators, and was monitoring the situation. The Bank of England is understood to be keeping a watching brief. The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), which is responsible for individual



Martin Owen, the chief executive of NatWest Markets, who has agreed to forgo £200,000 of his £500,000 performance-related bonus for 1996

Leading article... 21
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Cost of damage... 29

dating back to 1994 has given rise to a book loss of £90 million—considerably higher than the initial £50 million estimate. The reversal of unpaid bonuses, together with provisions, results in a net charge to the accounts of £77 million.

The losses have been independently benchmarked by Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, working with Linklaters & Paines, the law firm. Derek Wanless, group chief executive of NatWest Group, said that the investigating team would now turn its attention to the areas where the losses occurred, and look

City registrations, has been notified of the suspensions. The suspensions took place on Wednesday evening. They are part of the normal investigation procedure, and carry no implication of misconduct.

Those suspended include Phil Wise, 48, formerly senior managing director, capital markets, who was recently made chief administrative officer. He joined in 1972 on a graduate scheme from the London School of Economics.

Ian Gaskell, 34, head of swaps options trading, has also been suspended. Mr Gaskell joined NatWest in 1983 on a graduate management training programme. Jean-Francoise Nguyen, managing director, debt derivatives, and Christophe Lanson, global head of rate risk management, have also been suspended. Mr

Nguyen, 37, and Mr Lanson, 30, both joined from CSFP in September 1992.

Neil Dodgson, global head of options, was suspended some days ago. Kyriacos Papadopoulos, the options trader at the centre of the affair, left NatWest to join Bear Stearns last December, but has since resigned and has refused to co-operate with the NatWest investigation.

Vincent Tomasi, head of US debt capital markets at NatWest Markets in New York, becomes acting head of global debt derivatives. NatWest said there had been little client reaction. Dogged in the past by the long-running Blue Arrow affair, the group is anxious to avoid any lasting damage, and Mr Wanless has moved swiftly to bring matters under control.

THE turmoil at NatWest has been a boon to the accountants and lawyers, who worked night and day to produce their preliminary report into the "black hole" affair (Jon Ashworth writes).

The pinstriped brigade parachuted in to NatWest two weeks ago, and have been charging between £400 and £500 an hour ever since. NatWest has thrown no fewer than four separate teams into the fray, in an attempt to unravel mispricing on the options book dating to 1994. An internal team of ten, led by David Page, director of group audit, carried out the initial investigation, with the help of a 12-strong team from

'Black hole' costs bonanza

KPMG. NatWest's auditor. Their work has been independently vetted by two further teams of specialists—from Coopers & Lybrand, led by Phil Rivett, a partner specialising in derivatives, and Linklaters & Paines, headed by Robert Elliott.

NatWest says a core of 25 people are involved, although more are drafted in as needed. This type of assignment—requiring swift, decisive answers in a minimum of time—carries a hefty premium, and is certain to send NatWest's £90 million figure spiralling into the nether regions. The partners involved are certain to charge in the region of £400 to £500 per

hour, and the investigation is only two weeks old.

Derek Wanless, NatWest's group chief executive, effectively handed the intrepid investigators a blank cheque yesterday, when he said that the investigation would continue for "months, rather than days and weeks". The cost would undoubtedly be high, but it was important that every avenue be covered.

The inquiry has taken in NatWest's offices in New York, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Sydney and Singapore. Investigators have found no evidence of systemic mispricing. NatWest has so far resisted physically dispatching investigators to its outposts.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4387.7	(-24.8)
Yield	3.88%	
FTSE All share	2146.3	(-3.25)
Nickel	17500.45	(-222.75)
New York		
Dow Jones	8974.23	(-65.04)
S&P Composite	798.53	(-5.71)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(41.50)
Long Bond	90%	(89%)
Yield	6.94%	(8.50%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6 1/4%	(9 1/4%)
Life long gilt	11 1/4%	(11 1/4%)
STERLING		
New York	1.5967	(1.5983)
London	1.5965	(1.5930)
DM	2.7174	(2.7103)
FF	5.1582	(5.1456)
SFR	2.3311	(2.3355)
Yen	196.14	(195.35)
£ Index	97.0	(96.8)
US\$ \$		
London	1.7056	(1.6927)
FF	5.7425	(5.7115)
SFR	1.4645	(1.4650)
Yen	123.28	(122.20)
£ Index	104.2	(104.2)
Tokyo close Yen	122.25	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (May)	\$19.80	(\$19.40)
GOLD		
London close	\$382.95	(\$382.75)

* denotes midday trading price

Fast exit

Rob Lowes has departed suddenly as chairman and chief executive of Burger King, the fast food company owned by Grand Metropolitan, just as a burger war is breaking out in America.

Page 26

Better flavour

United Biscuits is on the road to recovery, returning to the black last year from £100 million of losses the previous year.

Page 30, Pennington 27

Bain to leave Coats Viyella

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE chief executive of Coats Viyella, the UK's biggest textile company, is to leave to "pursue his career outside the group". The departure of Neville Bain was revealed as Coats, which is in the midst of a radical shake-up, suffered a 41 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £94.4 million. Much of the slump was caused by a £54.9 million charge for restructuring.

So far, Mr Bain, 56, has nothing to go to when he leaves Coats next month or in May, but he hopes to collect a string of directorships and a chairmanship. He will be paid his £420,000 salary until the

end of the year and will be available for consultancy to the company, which has struggled through cyclical downturns in textiles, currency fluctuations and international competition.

Mr Bain, who has headed Coats for more than six years, will not receive any compensation. He will be replaced by Michael Ost, who was chief executive at McEchnie, the plastics and metals group, until recently.

Mr Bain denied that he was paying the price for Coats's difficulties with his resignation and insisted that the company was well placed for development this year. Coats's share price has fallen substantially over the past year and massively underperformed the FT All-Share index.

Excluding the restructuring charge, Coats's profits slipped 8 per cent, as weak markets struck at its threads business. Threads accounts for half of the profits and in the year to December 31 fell 10 per cent to £90.3 million. The final dividend, payable on July 1, was set at 5.1p a share, leaving the total unchanged at 8.8p.

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Bain: paid to end of year

Freemans move by N Brown

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

N BROWN, the Manchester mail order company, is expected to launch a £250 million rights issue to fund the acquisition of the Freemans catalogue business from Sears.

N Brown, which is chaired by Sir David Alliance, confirmed yesterday that it is in talks with Sears and, at its request, its shares—which have been falling on speculation about a rights issue—were suspended on the Stock Exchange at 377p. It is understood that it now has a three-week period of exclusivity in which to carry out due diligence.

N Brown said that the acquisition is likely to be on similar terms to those agreed earlier with Littlewoods. That would mean the company paying around £305 million, which would net around £360 million for Sears. The balance between the rights issue and the amount to be paid to Sears would be financed from bank borrowings.

The Littlewoods deal lapsed after referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

L&G prepares for pension by phone

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LEGAL & GENERAL is to begin selling pensions by telephone. David Prosser, chief executive, said that the sales were likely to be executed only, with no advice given.

Mr Prosser said: "It is unlikely that we will offer advice by telephone, but we will still have a wide range of pensions available for customers who do need advice through our other distribution channels—independent financial advisers and agencies."

However, L&G's move will inevitably raise further questions about the way pensions are sold in the wake of the £4 billion mis-selling scandal. Independent advisers emphasise that pensions need to be sold as part of wider tax and financial planning.

Mr Prosser said: "Since we started selling personal equity plans and savings by telephone, demand has grown to 3,000 calls a day."

L&G's entry into direct pensions is likely to spark a price war in financial services. Liberty International, Eagle Star and Virgin already offer no-frills pensions by telephone.

Strength in life and savings products helped L&G to a 15.4 per cent rise, to £291.4 million,

in 1996 pre-tax operating profit from continuing operations, up from £252.5 million.

Earnings, based on operating profit from continuing operations after tax were 16.57p a share (14.08p). The dividend rises by 14 per cent, to 11.13p. L&G can pay all of the dividend from the return on non-profit business, income from shareholders' retained capital and 10 per cent of the surplus in the with-profit life fund.

Mr Prosser said he expected total growth of about 14 per cent from these sources in 1997.

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Tempus, page 28



Prosser: L&G profits up

Lawson's Pep talk fails to inspire investors

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

M&G, the fund manager that hired Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor, for its first TV advertising campaign, has suffered the embarrassment of a flopped launch.

The company spent £2 million developing the 30-second commercials starring Lord Lawson, the self-styled inventor of personal equity plans (Peps). However, it has raised just £20 million

from new investors in the High Income Trust, its only new Pep this year. This is particularly meagre compared to the £9 million M&G is also pouring into press and poster promotions.

Yesterday the company denied that it had ever set a £100 million target for the fund, and consoled itself with the additional £23 million it received from investors who switched from a predecessor trust to High Income. However, like Lord Lawson, the figure is much

slimmer than expected and in stark contrast with the £217 million it managed to raise from its new Pep in 1996.

Peter Emms, group marketing and sales director, said he was disappointed, but added the Lord Lawson advertisements had been designed to broaden M&G's appeal and were not linked to specific product marketing.

Fund managers are spending an unprecedented amount on Pep advertising this year. The end of the tax year is

always a heavy selling time, but has been compounded by fears that they may be reformed after the election. Peps allow up to £9,000 a year to be put into European stocks and shares free from income and capital gains tax. They have attracted more than £25 billion since Lord Lawson introduced them in 1987. "I must have been in a very generous mood," says Lord Lawson in the advertisement. M&G must be wishing investors were.

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Siemens poised to buy Parsons from Rolls

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIEMENS, the German industrial group, is believed to be on the verge of an agreement to acquire the Parsons Power Generation business from Rolls-Royce. Industry sources say that Siemens has already interviewed key staff at Parsons, but the German company is understood to be concerned about international

sales and orders for the turbine business. With those reservations, it is trying to beat down the price for the business, which could be in the region of £30 million.

The other contender for Parsons, based on Tyneside, is General Electric of the US. However, Parsons insiders say that although GE is thought to be prepared to pay more than Siemens, the German buyer is favoured by Rolls in strategic terms.

Rolls is thought to see GE as too direct a competitor, and to be readier to form links with Siemens.

An agreement between Siemens and Rolls was almost secured last week, and many key Parsons staff were braced for a takeover to proceed. Some workers overseas were already prepared to brief a new owner on international projects. The City would have favoured a deal struck ahead of Rolls-Royce's results

last week because analysts would have been able to write down the hefty provisions made by Rolls for disposal of Parsons and its combustion business in Derby. The company wrote off £263 million to cover the costs of withdrawal from steam power generation.

In the fresh round of talks between Rolls and Siemens, the seller is thought to be considering taking on losses associated with some of the

long-term international contracts of Parsons.

At Rolls-Royce's results presentation, John Rose, chief executive, said that the company was keen to get the best price for Parsons while maximising employment expectations.

One Parsons employee seen by Siemens said that staff feared they were being interviewed for their own jobs as well as being questioned about Parsons's international prospects.

Granada plays down bid talk

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

GRANADA GROUP yesterday moved to quell rumours that it was on the verge of making a bid for Yorkshire-Tyne Television, wiping £75 million off Yorkshire's market value in the process.

Shares in Yorkshire-Tyne went into freefall in late trading, closing down nearly 10 per cent at £11.62½. Granada shares fell 17p to 956½p.

Granada said that it had no current intention of bidding for Yorkshire-Tyne Television, although it did not rule out entering a takeover battle should an offer from a rival media group materialise.

Granada added that it believed the current Yorkshire-Tyne share price already contained a significant bid premium. It also played down expectations that Yorkshire would win a reduction in its annual licence payment.

Ward Thomas, chairman of Yorkshire-Tyne Television, stoked speculation earlier this week when he said that the company was expecting a bid and called for it to be pitched as high as £17 a share.

Granada, which owns 27 per cent of Yorkshire-Tyne Television, has consistently said that it would be interested in bidding but only at a sensible price.

United News and Media, which has a 14 per cent stake in Yorkshire-Tyne Television, has also been linked with a takeover offer.



Bob Seelert, chief executive of Cordiant. The advertising group, formerly known as Saatchi & Saatchi, is set to pay its first dividend in seven years

GrandMet burger king in sudden departure

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

ROB LOWES has abruptly departed as chairman and chief executive of Burger King, the fast food company owned by Grand Metropolitan.

The departure of the successful chairman was seen on Wall Street as a significant embarrassment for Burger King just as a burger price war is breaking out in the US. GrandMet refused to comment on why Mr Lowes is leaving.

McDonald's, the world's largest fast food chain, is cutting the price of its Big Mac burger from \$1.95 to 55 cents to try to win back market share. Although Burger King has said that it will not lower its

prices, many analysts believe that it will be forced to compete with McDonald's soon.

Burger King, the second-largest fast food group, is the strongest competitor to McDonald's in the burger sector, in which its market share has risen significantly in the past four years.

Mr Lowes presided over much of this transformation from languishing fast food company to one of the fastest-growing restaurant chains in a hugely competitive market. In 1995 he was made chairman as well as chief executive, a move that GrandMet insisted showed the level of co-operation and trust between

Mr Lowes and George Bull, GrandMet's chairman. At the same time, Mr Lowes dismissed rumours that Burger King might be floated off from GrandMet.

Dennis Malamatinas is replacing Mr Lowes as chief executive and will be particularly involved with ambitious overseas expansion plans. He has served as president of International Distillers and Vintners, Asia Pacific, GrandMet's Hong Kong-based drinks business. Before joining the group, he worked for Procter & Gamble and PepsiCo.

In a move that effectively divides the roles of running US and overseas operations,

Paul Clayton has been made head of operations and marketing in North America. Mr Clayton has worked for Burger King for 12 years.

GrandMet said: "The expansion plans for Burger King mean that it is no longer tenable for the role of president of Burger King North America to be combined with that of chief executive officer."

Burger King has more than 8,900 outlets in 56 countries. It serves about 11.8 million customers a day and employs more than 300,000 people worldwide. In the financial year to September 30, Burger King had a 9 per cent rise in sales, to \$9 billion.

Cordiant is back in the black after Saatchi break-up

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

CHARLIE SCOTT, chairman of Cordiant, predicted the advertising group would complete its recovery this year after the company reported a return to profit and said it would pay its first dividend for seven years.

The company, formerly known as Saatchi & Saatchi, was damaged in 1995 by the departure of Maurice Saatchi after a shareholder revolt over pay deals. Mr Saatchi took a number of key accounts and staff — including his brother Charles — to his new business, M&C Saatchi, while Cordiant was forced to launch a rights issue to reduce its crippling debt pile.

Cordiant, whose chief executive is Bob Seelert, yesterday recorded full-year profits, excluding tax, of £42 million, compared with a £22.6 million loss in 1995. The final dividend of 1p is due July 1.

Net interest payments declined from £20.6 million to £7.5 million, while average net debt was reduced from £125 million to £15 million. Overall revenue was flat at £755 million, although the company said that underlying revenue increased by 2.7 per cent. Trading margins were also flat at 6.4 per cent.

Cordiant said net new business picked up in the second half of last year with the company winning assignments from BMW, Coca-Cola, General Mills, HSBC and Toyota among others.

Mr Scott said that there was still much to be done on improving networks but performance was steady and the company is in a good position to build for the future.

Britain to block energy tax plans

BRITAIN will block controversial Brussels plans for Europe-wide energy taxes, Kenneth Clarke said yesterday (James Landale writes).

The Chancellor made clear that the Government would formally veto the plans agreed by the European Commission on Wednesday.

The draft Energy Tax Directive, which will be discussed by European finance ministers next Monday, would impose minimum tax rates on petrol and diesel that are lower than current UK duties. It would also impose minimum rates for the first time on gas, electricity and coal, which are untaxed in the UK at present.

The directive needs the support of all EU member states before it can pass.

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Bank Buys	Bank Sells	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
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Belgium Fr	19.98	Netherlands G	0.596
Canada \$	58.66	New Zealand \$	2.21
Cyprus Cyp	2.282	Norway Kr	10.57
Denmark Kr	0.941	Portugal Esc	202.00
Finland Mk	10.88	S Africa Rd	6.82
France Fr	8.65	Spain Ptas	223.50
Germany Dm	9.21	Sweden Kr	12.81
Greece Dr	2.85	Switzerland Fr	2.45
Hong Kong \$	4.42	Turkey Lira	210500
Ireland P	12.00	USA \$	1.895
Italy Lira	1.07		
Japan Yen	1.07		
	196.30		

Rates for small denomination bank notes as supplied by Barclay's Bank. Other rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates at close of trading yesterday.



KPN will publish its 1996 annual report in the second half of April 1997. The general meeting of shareholders will be held in Groningen on May 6, 1997. Copies of the 1996 KPN annual report are obtainable by filling in the coupon or by faxing +31-235 6230 24.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Final bids near for Scottish Amicable

FINAL binding bids for Scottish Amicable, the mutual life insurer, must be submitted by 6pm tonight and the outcome will be announced by the end of this month. The three firm bidders are expected to be Abbey National, Prudential Corporation and AMP of Australia. Scottish Amicable has asked the City Disputes Panel to appoint an independent tribunal should any dispute arise with bidders.

Sandy Stewart, chairman of Scottish Amicable, said: "We are making excellent progress in our discussions with all the bidders. The inclusion of an appeals process is a sensible additional safeguard of policyholders' interests." Should any bidder request that its proposal be made public, the details will be released on Monday.

Continental-Virgin pact

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES, of America, has reached a code-sharing agreement with Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic Airways on the Newark/New York-London routes and eight other routes between Britain and America. The agreement replaces Virgin's alliance with Delta Air Lines, which will terminate later this year. Under the arrangement, which will be subject to regulatory approvals, Continental will add two daily flights between Newark and London, and Virgin Atlantic a second flight between London and Newark.

Daimler sees growth

A SWEEPING reorganisation of Daimler-Benz has left the group poised to enjoy healthy growth for the next decade, Juergen Schrenpp, the chairman, told a group of investors yesterday. He said Daimler has finally developed a structure that will enable it to compete on the international stage. He said: "We have all the formal preconditions in place to make the company healthy for the next ten years. The next step is to enact our goals." Daimler undertook a massive restructuring in January, cutting layers of middle management.

Davis moves ahead

SHARES in Davis Service rose 14p to 258p after the business support service group revealed a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £32.1 million, for 1996 on sales up £20 million at £344 million. Earnings per share rose 31 per cent to 18.92p. The final dividend rises 10 per cent to 6.9p, taking the total up from 9.35p to 10.29p. Neil Benson, chairman, said: "In 1997 I believe we will continue to build on our strengths and I look forward to reporting in due course on another successful year." Trading conditions last year were said to be challenging.

Gibbs & Dandy rise

SHARES in Gibbs & Dandy rose 2p to 98½p after the builder's merchant revealed a rise in full-year pre-tax profits to £1.21 million (£1.09 million) in the year to December 31. Earnings per share rose from 9.7p to 10.4p and the total dividend for the year rises from 3.5p to 3.75p. The company also revealed that it is to acquire Miller, Morris and Brooker, a holding company for a group of builder's merchants. GGDan is paying £3 million in cash. An additional £600,000 may be made, subject to the net asset value of MM&B.

Lambert Howarth leaps

LAMBERT HOWARTH, the footwear and ceramics company led by Sir Trevor Holdsworth, reported a 32.7 per cent rise in 1996 pre-tax profits, to £2.2 million, on sales that rose 10.6 per cent to £98.7 million. Earnings rose 22.8 per cent to 11.5p a share. A final dividend of 5.25p a share makes a total of 7.5p, up from 7.1p previously. The company said 1997 had started well, with better sales and a strong order book. The acquisition of Adinolfi last year established further critical mass in supplies to Marks & Spencer Homeware, it added.

IMI buys from Swiss

IMI, the engineering group, is to buy the Thermtec valves division of Sulzer, the Swiss group, for up to £13 million. IMI will pay an initial cash consideration of £10 million and a further amount of up to £3 million may become payable in cash depending on the profit performance up to the end of this year. Sulzer Thermtec has net assets of £5 million and headquarters and manufacturing plant in Oberwinterthur, near Zurich. It employs 300 people worldwide and has annual sales of approximately £36 million.

Pittards beats BSE

PITTARDS, the leather company, returned to profit in 1996 despite disruption to business caused by the BSE crisis, which made it hard to procure hides in the first half. Worst affected was its shoe and leather goods division. Pre-tax profits in the year to December 31 were £3.63 million, compared with a loss of £522,000 a year ago. Earnings per share were 13.3p (4p) and the company will pay a final dividend of 2.5p (1.5p), due on May 16, giving a full-year dividend of 3.25p (1.5p).

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□ Who guards the NatWest guardians? □ Burnt-out case in gradual recovery □ Food retail figures show upswing

The zero option

OVER the past month, the market value of National Westminster Bank has fallen by roughly £1.65 billion. Not all this can be attributed to the little mistakes being uncovered in the bank's option market-making business. Profit-taking took its toll, then the markets reacted to the Bank of England's fear that credit quality had peaked for this cycle.

Investors' confidence cannot have been helped, however, by the subsequent revelation that the bank had lost £90 million — sorry that should be £90 million and counting — because of what first seemed to be a clerical error in calculating option prices.

The one thing these numbers have in common is an awful lot of noughts. And what do noughts mean? They mean huge risks and huge potential losses as well as huge profits. In this case, disaster was not courted by the bank speculating on its own account, as virtually all do but should not. It was caused by giving customers too good a deal.

Bank error in their favour, collect £90 million. Golden tentacles from the accountants and legal professions, swarming over the ant-hill that is NatWest Markets, are still trying to assess the extent of the errors and losses, the degree of incompetence and/or cover-up. Outside regulators will doubtless re-run the episode

many times in slow motion. One can safely guess the sages will conclude that computer monitoring software was inadequate to the task, supervision lacked a certain something (effectiveness perhaps?) and that a lot of money will have to be spent building a better mousetrap. There will be much tut-tutting about the bonus culture that can encourage young traders to cut corners.

We have heard it all before. The message of the noughts is, however, that the supervisory overheads should match the skills, drive and financial incentives of front-line traders. One solution would be to use burnt-out traders, say past the age of 30. Another might be to adopt a military approach so that no one was in charge of the same book for long, that traders swapped places and perhaps that traders should spend every other month supervising each other. If this were done, profit margins would be lower, but so would be losses.

When investors lose £1.65 billion in a month, it is a serious matter whatever the cause.

Retribution has certainly been swift and deadly. Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Markets, has volunteered to give up £200,000 of his £500,000 annual bonus. Mr Owen, a worthy fellow, believes this good example will encourage senior managers to take responsibility and follow suit.

Wow. Giving up £200,000 of your £500,000 annual success bonus just because you missed a £90 million hole. Now that is really something. Those employees who sued Barings for their bonuses after it collapsed will doubtless be impressed by this new moral dimension.

Crumbling heritage of United Biscuits

IT IS hard not to wax philosophical over burnt-out former stars such as BTR and United Biscuits. Once they bestrode the stock market like colossi, and Sir Owen Green and Sir Hector Laing, as they then were, were two of the most admired and powerful businessmen of their time. Now their successors are



scrabbling around to persuade analysts that the worst of the decline is over. Vanity of vanities, said the preacher: all is vanity. UB shares have seen something of a renaissance so far this year, as one or two of those analysts have been persuaded.

The shares are, however, still much more than half their value in 1993. Colin Short, the hard man drafted in from ICL, has delivered most of what the market has been asking for, by means of disposals including Keebler, probably UB's worst mistake because it meant taking on PepsiCo in its home market, and cost-cutting. UB was actually cash positive by £5 million last year before disposals, the first time this decade for a

company whose appetite has often exceeded its means. This was in spite of marketing spend rising as a percentage of sales and being set to rise further this year. The interest bill was almost five times covered by profits, and market projections suggest that cover will be up to seven or eight this year. Quite respectable, but reflected in the share price, alas, of about 16 times earnings this year and 14 times those for 1998.

This makes UB, the dog of the food sector, and, with limited growth prospects, dearer than more respected businesses such as Cadbury Schweppes. The premium has much to do with those hostile bid rumours that Eric Nicoli, the chief executive, claims to have heard once a week for the past 17 years that he has been there. Talks have taken place with Cadbury, which wisely turned UB down, and more tentatively with Nestlé.

The latest candidate for those keen to push the UB price higher is Unilever. However, the Anglo-Dutch food combine has its eyes on the Far East and other emerging markets. UB, before its untimely expansion, depended on

the UK for 70 per cent of profits. After the group's contraction, the corresponding figure today is... 70 per cent. That's progress.

Grocers show signs of a counter punch

THE retailing pitches on City trading floors are wondering whether our mighty grocers, in the dumps since the start of the year, might have turned the corner. The reason is some sales data gathered and analysed by the Institute of Grocery Distribution that seem to show a sharp recovery in early March.

The IGD data are treated within the trade with the sort of secrecy normally reserved for instructions on how to produce a small nuclear device in your living room — that is, most experts have a pretty good idea but no one is inclined to say much in public. The index of food retailers' shares had plunged by about 13 per cent at its worst point in early February as fears of widespread price cuts coincided with a serious slump in sales in the early weeks of the

year. Matters were made worse by a report from Verdict, the influential retail consultancy, which predicted price wars over the next two or three years. Then there were the travails of Sainsbury as it was overtaken by Tesco as market leader.

The industry itself has been desperate for proof that February's dip, and the worst month for food sales in two years, was a one-off, perhaps people de-stocking their larders after Christmas, going on winter holidays in larger numbers or paying off credit card debt. The IGD figures may have provided this at last, with food retail sales growth back where it was before the big panic, which is why prices have been ticking up this week. It is too soon to be sure, and some figures from AGB Research next week may tell us more, but one or two investors are already placing their bets.

Wrong number

ONE wonders where the rush towards ordering everything on the telephone will end. Insurance is a commodity product, true, but pensions should surely be more individually tailored. Yet Legal & General is joining Virgin and others in selling the things over the phone. First there was pensions mis-selling — now wait for pensions mis-dialling.

Reckitt shifts away from food sector

BY FRASER NELSON

RECKITT & COLMAN, the household products and food group, is shifting away from its £200 million food operation, which it regards as "non-core".

The company, which owns Dettol and Lemsip, said that the food business was not part of long-term growth strategy. Instead, it was looking to emerging markets, through sales of its household products, to drive future growth.

Its food operations, mainly in North America, suffered a fall in operating profit last year, to £19.5 million, in spite of a 3.6 per cent increase in sales, to £203 million.

A stronger performance from household products, which account for 80 per cent of group business, helped pre-tax profits grow to £316 million (£285 million). After the effects of disposals, earnings dropped to 57.7p (76.8p) a share. The total dividend rises to 23.37p (20.15p), with a final 14.02p due on July 7.

The strength of sterling cut about £130 million from group turnover, which grew from £2.25 billion to £2.29 billion on an underlying basis.

L&F products, which it bought in 1995, delivered £45

million of cost savings on an ongoing basis. The company shed 1,400 jobs after the merger, leaving 2,200 staff — the same number as the company had before the acquisition.

Vernon Sankey, chief executive, said the company would not be making any major acquisitions this year. It plans to buy local brands from emerging markets, and aims to capture 30 per cent of the market in Latin America and Asia within four years.

Mr Sankey played down speculation that the company may be approached by Unilever.

Revenue from North America grew 28 per cent to £780 million over the year, as the region overtook Europe to become the group's largest earner. The introduction of new brands helped lift margins from 13.2 per cent to 15.6 per cent, and operating profit to £121 million (£101 million).

The company blamed economic weakness for its poor results in continental Europe, where revenue was stagnant at £763 million.

The City gave a lukewarm reception to the results, and the shares fell 2p to 787p.

Christie's paints a good picture

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

CHRISTIE'S International sees a good growth outlook this year with several important collections of paintings lined up for sale.

In 1996 there were few major single-owner collections sold but auction sales still grew by 9 per cent, contributing to a 57 per cent jump in pre-tax profit to £33.9 million, the auction house said yesterday. Impressionist and Modern picture sales accounted for 20 per cent of group turnover and jewellery 17 per cent.

Earnings increased to 12.77p a share (8.03p). The final dividend of 3.55p (2.15p), due May 23, gives a total of 4.75p (2.8p).

Peter Blythe, finance director, said that the company may move to new premises in New York or reorganise the current Park Avenue premises. It also hopes to hold sales in Paris in 1998.

Amvesco to change name again

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

AMVESCO, the result of last year's merger between fund managers Invesco and AIM Management Group of the US, is to change its name again after a legal challenge from a Texan real estate company.

It is to be renamed Amvescap after Amvesco, a Dallas firm that plans to expand into pensions management, challenged the firm after the merger in November. Robert McCullough, chief financial officer, said this had forced the company to delay a corporate advertising campaign.

Excluding exceptional items, pre-tax profits for the Invesco business rose 40 per cent to a record £66 million, with funds under management up 13 per cent to \$10.9 billion and earnings per share up 34 per cent to 16.6p. A final dividend of 4p, to be paid on April 3, brings the total for the year to 6p.

BR subsidiary sold to US-owned company

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAILFREIGHT Distribution (RFD), British Rail's loss-making Channel Tunnel freight subsidiary, is to be sold to the American-owned English Welsh and Scottish Railway (EWS), it was confirmed yesterday.

The sale of the company, which loses £60 million a year, virtually completes the break-up of BR, which is due to be completed by its final year-end on March 31. ScotRail, the Scottish passenger train oper-

ator is BR's last remaining significant trading subsidiary and it is due to be taken over by National Express Group by early next month.

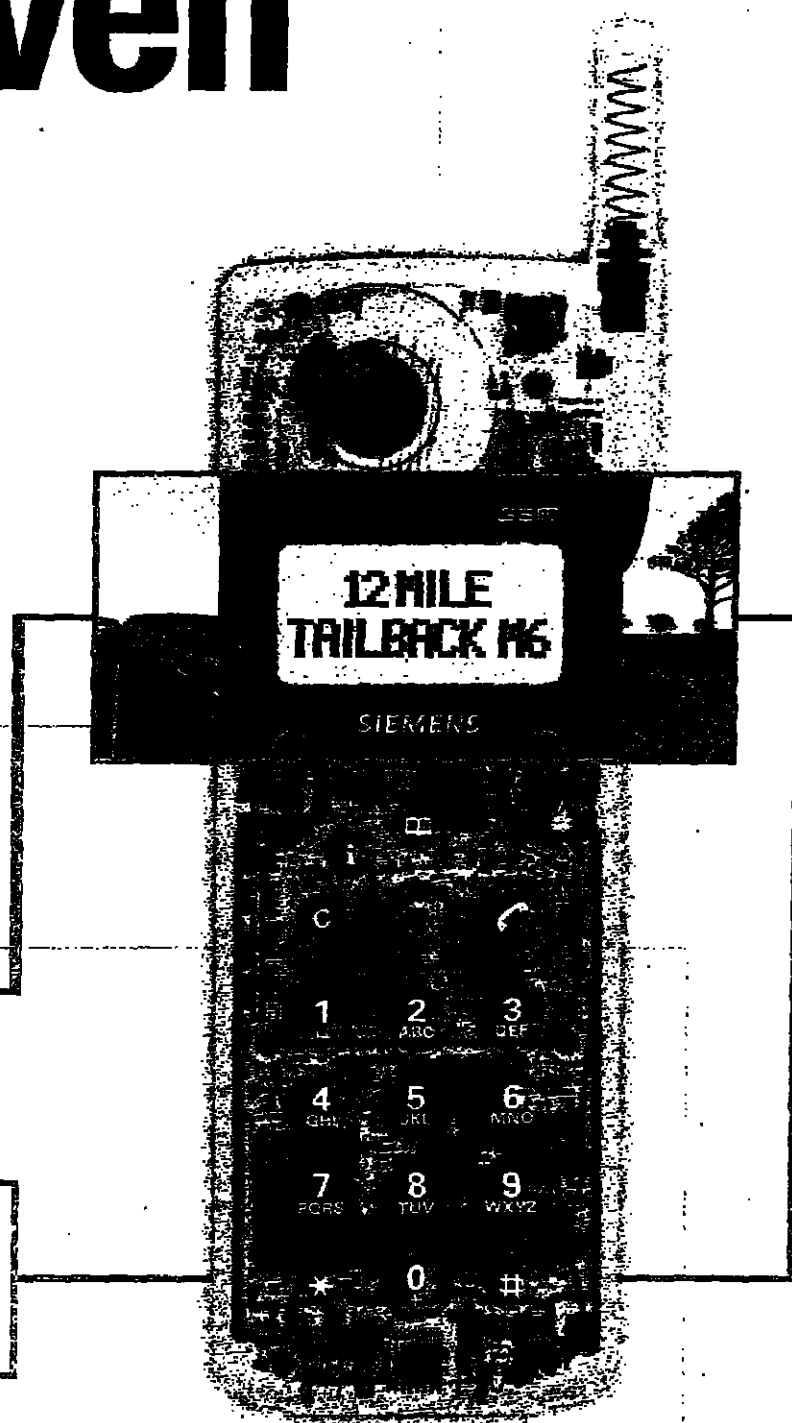
The deal gives EWS a virtual monopoly over rail freight in the United Kingdom after its purchases of BR's three domestic heavy freight subsidiaries and Rail Express Systems, which handles mail and parcels.

No financial details of the sale were disclosed.

SIEMENS

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Prospect of US rate rise lifts fears of shake-out

THE prospect of a rise in US interest rates sent Wall Street into a nosedive last night and left share prices and bonds sharply lower in London.

With the Dow Jones industrial average plunging more than 100 points, at one stage, brokers in London's Square Mile are poised for another shake-out when trading resumes this morning. Yesterday the FT-SE 100 index closed just above its low for the day with a fall of 24.8 at 4,397.7.

Trading conditions were subdued with investors' attention focused on Cheltenham and the Gold Cup. Turnover levels also fell, with a total of 863 million shares traded.

There was the smell of burnt fingers at Yorkshire-Tees Television after Granada, its biggest shareholder, ruled out the prospect of a bid this year. The price touched £11.05 before ending the 117.2p down at £11.62. Granada, down 17p at 950.2p, said speculation was mis-placed and said the current bid price already reflected a healthy premium. Only an offer from a third party would persuade Granada to change its mind.

The spiralling losses in subordinated interest rate options book left NatWest 5p lower at 739p. Provisions have now been increased to £77 million after an investigation by accountants.

Cadbury Schweppes slipped 2p to 553p as a protected block trade of 4.89 million shares from Tuesday went through at 541p. United Biscuits rose 12.5p to 250p on the back of some impressive profit numbers. Dealers hope the company has finally turned the corner after a depressing couple of years.

BG was again one of the heaviest traded shares among the top 100 as the price rose 2.4p to 170p with 16.98 million recorded. Brokers are hoping for some good news soon.

The market gave the thumbs-up to full-year figures from Enterprise Oil, which was rewarded with a rise of 18.5p at 652p. The group has a billion barrels of oil in reserve and says it has no intention of raising money via a rights issue to spend on acquisitions. This left Cairn Energy 4.2p off at 570.2p. It had been tipped as the most likely takeover target for Enterprise.

There was heavy turnover in Dana Petroleum as the price slipped 2p to 23.2p with 22 million shares changing



Luke Johnson and David Page of PizzaExpress, which rose 9p on expansion plans and a broker's "buy" report

hands. A line of 2.19 million was recorded at 23p and another two million at 23.2p. There were also two lines of 1.65 million at 22.2p.

There seems to be no stopping Shield Diagnostics, up another 87.2p at 805p. Shield started the year at 130p, but has gone from strength to strength on the back of prospects for its new detection

broker, is said to have cut its forecast for the current year by £10 million to £125 million after the recent acquisition of Harrison, the security printer. It also expects earnings growth to remain flat during the next couple of years.

At the same time, BZW has issued a basket of paper and packaging warrants. The 20 million warrants, including

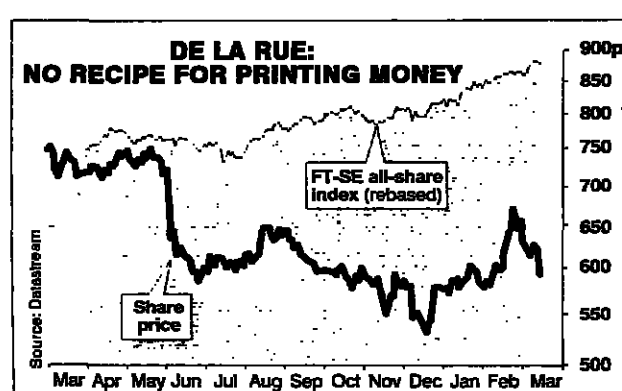
Lynx Holdings, the computer software and services group, has come off its high of 113p reached earlier this year. It dipped 1.5p to 103p yesterday. Whispers circulating in the Square Mile claim there is a big seller waiting in the wings hoping to take advantage of the recent share price strength.

Shares of N Brown, the mail order group, were suspended 4p lower at 377.2p as the group confirmed it was in talks with Sears to buy its Freeman's mail order business. Sears was 1p firmer at 81p.

A profits downgrade left De La Rue nursing a fall of 24p at 592.2p. Cazenove, the

De La Rue, Rexam, 2.2p easier at 331.2p, Arjo Wiggins, 1.2p dearer at 195.2p, and others, will be issued at 81p on the basis of ten warrants for one basket.

This week's revival in shares of Iceland, the frozen food retailer, based on the proposed share buyback at 105p has proved short-lived, with the price dipping 4.2p to



Source: Datastream

95p. Brokers are sceptical. There is little to cheer shareholders of Wakebourn, the computer services group, these days. The shares continue to bounce along on the bottom, closing unchanged at 12p yesterday. The price stood at 35p last year and reached 35p in 1992.

PizzaExpress, headed by Luke Johnson, chairman, and David Page, chief executive, responded positively to this week's "buy" recommendation from Kleinwort Benson, the broker, with a rise of 9p at 666.2p. The fast-growing restaurant chain plans to open a further 20 franchised outlets in the short term. Credit Lyonnais, the company's own broker, says such a move will be cash generative. It also rates the share a "buy".

MAID, the information and technology supplier, shrugged off news of further losses totalling £7 million, up from £4 million last time, with a rise of 10p at 188.2p. Dan Wagner, chief executive, is bullish about prospects and is forecasting the group will achieve profitability in the current year. MAID has been the subject of several bear raids in recent months, which have left it well below last year's peak of 34p.

VideoLogic put up 1.4p at 57.2p after announcing plans to link up with NEC Electronics to launch PCX2, billed as the second generation of 3D processor based on the PowerVR system. The new processor is 50 per cent more powerful than early models.

GILT-EDGED: Bond prices in London followed German bonds lower in thin trading. Index-linked issues suffered falls for the second day in a row as the Bank of England confirmed it would be increasing the amount of stock in issue during the next financial year.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt fell £1.22 to £111.1 as a modest 55,000 contracts were completed.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell almost £1.2 to £104.72, while Treasury 8 per cent was £1.5 easier at £103.9. NEW YORK: Shares and bonds were down in morning trade after February retail sales data revived concerns that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates this month. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 65.04 points lower at 6,974.33.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 6974.33 (+65.04)
S&P Composite 708.55 (+5.71)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 17900.48 (+282.79)
Hang Seng 12995.62 (+183.51)

Amsterdam:
BOE Index 788.03 (+1.38)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries 2452.0 (+1.8)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3349.81 (+65.59)

Singapore:
Straits 2154.33 (+33.08)

Brussels:
General 12193.35 (+102.39)

Paris:
CAC-40 3632.10 (+4.60)

Zurich:
SSA Gen 961.50 (+8.40)

London:
FT 30 2907.3 (+15.3)
FT 100 4397.7 (+24.8)
FTSE Mid 250 4720.2 (+4.9)
FTSE 250 2175.2 (+10.2)
FTSE Europe 100 2163.3 (+20.94)
FT All-Share 2168.8 (+4.25)
FT Non Financials 2198.2 (+8.86)
FT Fixed Interest 119.35 (+0.09)
FT Food Sec 95.20 (+0.30)
Barrings 55017
SEAG Volume 863.59
US\$ 1.5973 (+0.0034)
German Mark 2.1712 (+0.0008)
Exchange Index 97.0 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (p.m.)
ESCU 1.1586
RPI 154.4 Jan (1.8%) Jan 1997=100
RPIX 153.9 Jan (1.4%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Anglo-Weiss 103p
Airtel 122p
Aurora Inv Trust 100
Birmingham City 51p
CAB Publishing 175
Caldore Warrants 1p
Cambridge Mini Res 13p
Centra (75p) 61
Core Group 32p
Dobbin's Garden 26p
Energy Group (525) 517p
Girovond Cash Sys 188p
Howle 30p
Infobank Intl 175
Nord Anglo Educn 15p
Pad Group 27p
River & Merc Int UK 100
Screen 5p
TR Euro Gwth Writ 60p
Technoplas 113p
Usher of Trowbridge 41p
VFG 41p

RIGHTS ISSUES

Grantchar n/p (137) 39p + 2
PTS n/p (100) 22p

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Shield Dig 805p (+87p)
MAID 188p (+16p)
Core Group 32p (+7p)
Perry Group 223p (+13p)
Davis Service 258p (+14p)
Abbey 205p (+10p)
Bund 232p (+10p)
WPP 276p (+11p)

FALLS:
English Nat 195p (-12p)
Plasman 103p (-11p)
De La Rue 592p (-24p)
Argos 640p (-24p)
Hadleigh 321p (-11p)
EMI 1195p (-41p)
Remolint Intl 403p (-12p)
Nard 512p (-6p)
JJB Sports 410p (-11p)
Commercial Union 688p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS Ill-fitting Coats

WE KNEW that textiles was a tough business. But it was supposed to be this tough? Coats Viyella's December trading statement outlined most of the bad news about foreign textile markets and weakness in handkerchiefs in the UK. What emerged yesterday was the horrendous margins at the core of Coats Viyella's clothing business.

Coats has a £600 million business making clothes, both branded under the Berghaus label and under contract, mainly for Marks & Spencer. The whole business suffered a profits slide but the bulk of the setback was in contract clothing which last year made only £7 million on some £400 million in turnover.

A cynic might wonder whether Coats was unnecessarily subsidising the profits of Britain's favourite retailer. A margin of 1½ per cent is hardly worth such a struggle but

Coats insists that the problems were internal rather than market-related. Heavy restructuring—four factories closed in the UK—seems to have caused such confusion that the business of turning rags into riches was, temporarily, forgotten. Coats reckons it should get back to 5 per cent margins, but not this year, and in the long term Coats hopes to achieve a 7 per cent return from sales.

The contract clothing business employs assets worth £100 million. At current returns it is destroying shareholder value and needs to make £18 million if it is to meet its cost of capital. Michael Ost, the incoming chief executive, might think twice about keeping it but Coats needs the clothing business, one of the few that generates sterling profits to pay the dividend. That dividend is not looking very well covered.

Enterprise Oil

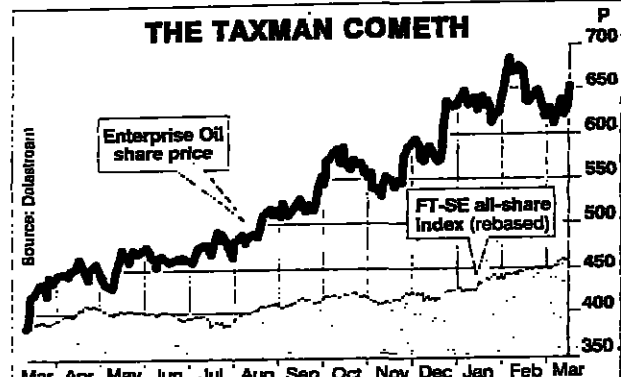
RELIEF that Enterprise Oil is not about to throw away all its hard-won gains into a bid for British Petroleum, explains in part the share price surge yesterday. The company is not ruling out acquisitions but it is at least giving comfort that it is not targeting one of the most expensive oil stocks on the market.

The earnings outlook is not brilliant. Shrinking oil price expectations mean that net profits for the current year could be £10 million lower. More disappointing than the oil price is the tax take, which is likely to remain at a high level of 60 per cent because of Enterprise's investments in high-tax Norway. Meanwhile, Enterprise will soon begin to pay petroleum revenue tax on its income from the Scott and

Nelson fields, which had the misfortune of coming on stream before the Government abolished PRT on new fields.

All is not fiscal gloom. Enterprise pays less tax in Italy, and the US Gulf is a tax-friendly oil province. But the reason investors like Enterprise is its success in finding oil. Last year the

company had a one in three success rate on exploration wells. High for the industry. If Enterprise can repeat its trick of gaining a barrel of oil for every barrel spent, the company should add another 150 million barrels to its reserves. As a play on asset growth, Enterprise has few equals on the market but profits may have to wait.



Source: Datastream

Legal & General

LEGAL & GENERAL provided further evidence of the sustained recovery in the life and savings market with a 14 per cent increase in worldwide life and pensions operating profit.

L&G is mainly a life company; its general insurance book is almost entirely household, having sold its commercial lines business to Guardian Insurance at the start of the year. Its exposure to the cut-throat motor market—where many of its competitors came a cropper last year—is tiny.

With such good growth, L&G would be an attractive purchase for an overseas investor seeking UK life profits. But L&G insists it has received no offers and is keen to remain independent.

It is sticking to what it knows best—life and savings—and says it has no intention to grow its general insurance book through acquisitions. In the wider context, the strategy

looks sound. Motor premium rates are low and likely to remain that way. Meanwhile, other insurers, are looking for ways of muscling into profitable life insurance.

Christian Salvesen

SIR GERARD ELLIOT may have failed in his attempted coup d'état at Christian Salvesen, but he will derive some comfort in seeing that some of the mud he flung at his opponents appears to be sticking.

If the company is so happy to take on 100 per cent exchange in exchange for a £100 million special dividend, it becomes all the more curious why it was not prepared to borrow to invest in its own business.

As it stands, it will now become a highly geared company owning capital-intensive businesses. It has effectively consigned itself to a commercial tightrope until the debt is paid off, leaving

little room to be blown off course. The first fundraiser has been the disposal of its US warehouses, which have delivered flat results for three years and showed limited scope for growth.

All eyes will now fall on Aggreko, the next business to walk the plank, this time via demerger. The division is in good health, and would certainly attract the attention of Caterpillar, with whom it competes in the US. Aggreko is Salvesen's strongest card, and to mislay it would be fatal, but the board have not put themselves in a strong position; the demerger effectively puts a for sale sign on the whole group.

Some comfort can be taken in the £150 million payback scheme, but the giveaway serves to underline the lunacy of rejecting the 380p-per-share takeover approach from Hays. Shareholders should take the special dividend and bid farewell.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE				ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)				GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
COCOA				CRUDE OIL \$/barrel FOB				LIFFE WHEAT		LIFFE BARLEY	
Mar	99-00	May	1049 LOR	Brent	Physdel	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00
Jul	100-00	Jul	1068 LOR	Brent 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	101-00	Oct	1075 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	102-00	Dec	1080 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	103-00	Feb	1085 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	104-00	Apr	1090 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	105-00	Jun	1095 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	106-00	Aug	1100 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	107-00	Oct	1105 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	108-00	Dec	1110 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	109-00	Feb	1115 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	110-00	Apr	1120 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	111-00	Jun	1125 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	112-00	Aug	1130 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	113-00	Oct	1135 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	114-00	Dec	1140 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	115-00	Feb	1145 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	116-00	Apr	1150 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	117-00	Jun	1155 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	118-00	Aug	1160 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	119-00	Oct	1165 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	120-00	Dec	1170 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	121-00	Feb	1175 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	122-00	Apr	1180 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	123-00	Jun	1185 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	124-00	Aug	1190 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	125-00	Oct	1195 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	126-00	Dec	1200 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	127-00	Feb	1205 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	128-00	Apr	1210 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	129-00	Jun	1215 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	130-00	Aug	1220 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	131-00	Oct	1225 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	132-00	Dec	1230 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	133-00	Feb	1235 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	134-00	Apr	1240 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	135-00	Jun	1245 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	136-00	Aug	1250 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	137-00	Oct	1255 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	138-00	Dec	1260 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	139-00	Feb	1265 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	140-00	Apr	1270 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	141-00	Jun	1275 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	142-00	Aug	1280 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	143-00	Oct	1285 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	144-00	Dec	1290 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	145-00	Feb	1295 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	146-00	Apr	1300 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	147-00	Jun	1305 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	148-00	Aug	1310 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	149-00	Oct	1315 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	150-00	Dec	1320 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	151-00	Feb	1325 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	152-00	Apr	1330 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	153-00	Jun	1335 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	154-00	Aug	1340 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	155-00	Oct	1345 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	156-00	Dec	1350 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	157-00	Feb	1355 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	158-00	Apr	1360 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	159-00	Jun	1365 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	160-00	Aug	1370 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	161-00	Oct	1375 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	162-00	Dec	1380 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	163-00	Feb	1385 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	164-00	Apr	1390 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	165-00	Jun	1395 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	166-00	Aug	1400 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	167-00	Oct	1405 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	168-00	Dec	1410 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	169-00	Feb	1415 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	170-00	Apr	1420 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	171-00	Jun	1425 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	172-00	Aug	1430 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	173-00	Oct	1435 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	174-00	Dec	1440 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	175-00	Feb	1445 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	176-00	Apr	1450 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	177-00	Jun	1455 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	178-00	Aug	1460 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	179-00	Oct	1465 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	180-00	Dec	1470 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	181-00	Feb	1475 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	182-00	Apr	1480 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	183-00	Jun	1485 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	184-00	Aug	1490 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	185-00	Oct	1495 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	186-00	Dec	1500 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	187-00	Feb	1505 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	188-00	Apr	1510 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	189-00	Jun	1515 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	190-00	Aug	1520 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	191-00	Oct	1525 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	192-00	Dec	1530 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	193-00	Feb	1535 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	194-00	Apr	1540 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	195-00	Jun	1545 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	196-00	Aug	1550 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	197-00	Oct	1555 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	198-00	Dec	1560 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	199-00	Feb	1565 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	200-00	Apr	1570 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	201-00	Jun	1575 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	202-00	Aug	1580 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	203-00	Oct	1585 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	204-00	Dec	1590 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	205-00	Feb	1595 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	206-00	Apr	1600 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	207-00	Jun	1605 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	208-00	Aug	1610 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	209-00	Oct	1615 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	210-00	Dec	1620 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	211-00	Feb	1625 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	212-00	Apr	1630 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	213-00	Jun	1635 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	214-00	Aug	1640 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	May	99-00	May	90-00	
Oct	215-00	Oct	1645 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jul	99-00	Jul	90-00	
Dec	216-00	Dec	1650 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Sep	99-00	Sep	90-00	
Feb	217-00	Feb	1655 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Nov	99-00	Nov	90-00	
Apr	218-00	Apr	1660 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Jan	99-00	Jan	90-00	
Jun	219-00	Jun	1665 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.50	-0.45	Mar	99-00	Mar	90-00	
Aug	220-00	Aug	1670 LOR	WT 15 day (May)	19.5						

United Biscuits shows signs of modest recovery

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

UNITED BISCUITS confirmed that it is on the road to recovery yesterday as it reported a return to the black in 1996, after a £100 million dive into the red the previous year.

Shareholders are to enjoy the first, albeit modest, dividend increase since 1990. The final dividend will be 6.5p (6.3p), making a total of 10p for the year, up from 9.8p. The group is also reinstating its profit-sharing scheme for UK employees, who will receive £1 million in shares for 1996.

Despite the generally rosy picture, the group said that a handful of businesses, includ-

ing KP crisps in the UK and its French and Benelux snack businesses, are still underperforming and further disposals are not ruled out.

In the 12 months to December 28, pre-tax profit after exceptional items was £24.4 million, compared with a loss of £100.6 million a year earlier. Pre-tax profit before exceptional items doubled from £49.7 million to £109.1 million.

Most of the exceptional items related to disposals last year, which also meant that sales were 34 per cent down at £1.99 billion, while borrowings fell sharply from £607 million to

£215 million. This meant that gearing was down from 97 per cent to 35 per cent.

Eric Nicoli, chief executive, said that the recovery had been led by the UK operations and there had been strong sales of Penguins, which rose 24 per cent, Hula Hoops, which rose 10 per cent, and Skips, which rose 25 per cent. He also said that the judgment in a case brought against Asda, the supermarkets group, should arrive in the next few days. UB alleges that Asda has been "passing off" its own-label Puffin biscuits as Penguins.

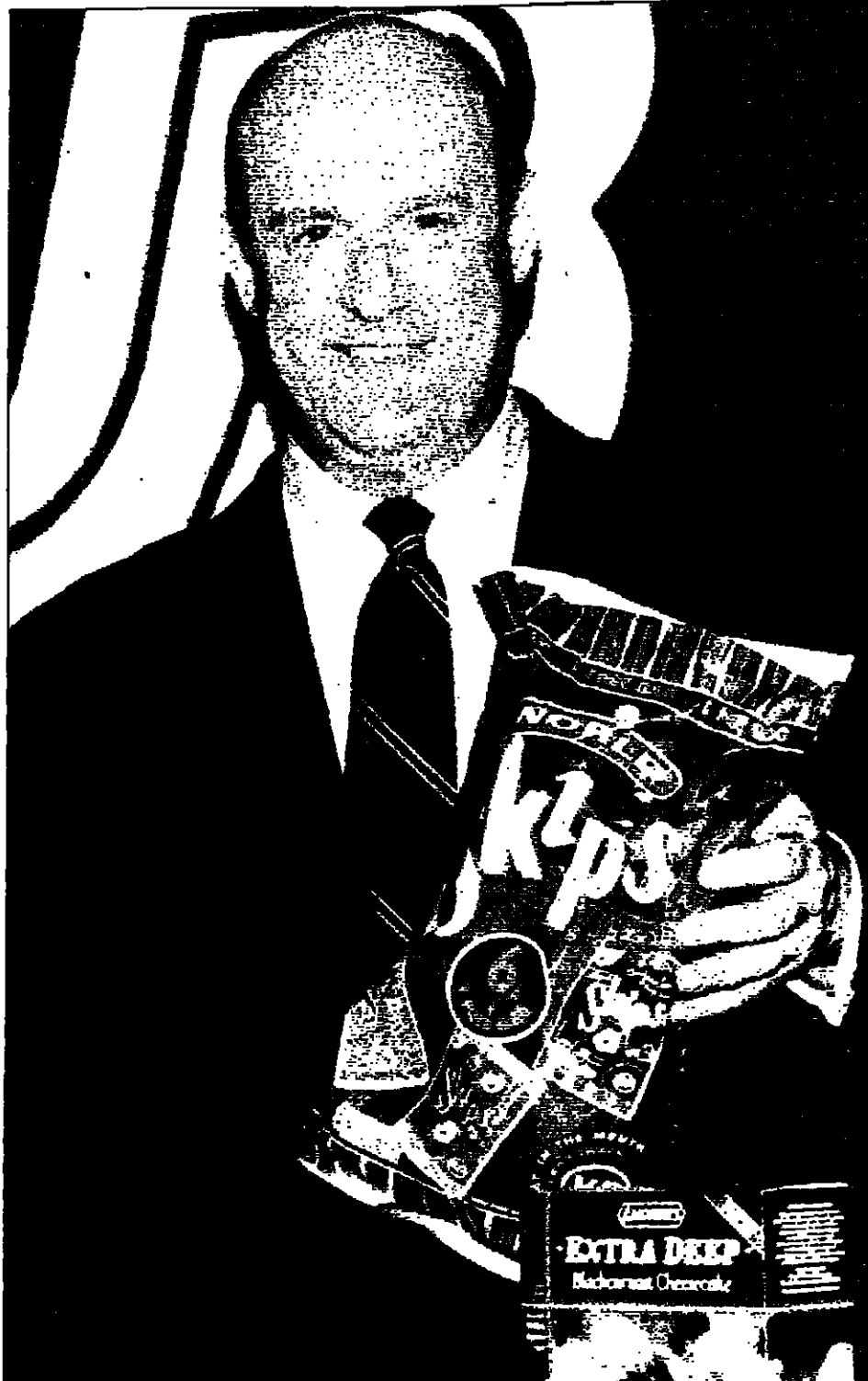
Mr Nicoli said that trading had been tough in Australia where Pepsi launched a big campaign based on giving away collectable Tazo discs with its products, but in the second half UB had begun to claw back lost market share.

Business in continental Europe, which made a loss in the first half, improved in the second six months of the year, with Verkade, the Dutch chocolates and biscuits subsidiary, staging a notable turnaround. The company also hopes that Asia will provide opportunities for long-term growth.

Earnings per share before exceptional items were 4.8p, compared with 4.8p a year ago. The dividend is payable on July 1.

United Biscuits' shares rose 12p to 249½ p yesterday.

Pennington, page 27



Eric Nicoli, chief executive of United Biscuits: "Recovery was led by UK operations"

French share sale expected to trigger Woodchester bid

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

THE long-awaited sale by Crédit Lyonnais of its 54 per cent stake in Woodchester Investments, the Irish financial services group, is expected to trigger the largest takeover in the history of the Irish stock exchange.

The size of the French bank's stake means its sale will lead to a full bid for Woodchester, which is valued at Ir£600 million. Among the frontrunners for the company, which yesterday reported a 22 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to Ir£44 million, are GE Capital, the financial services group, and Lombard & Ulster, Ulster Bank's leasing subsidiary.

Woodchester's share price has risen sharply since Crédit Lyonnais started negotiations with the European Commission over a second rescue package involving a large injection of state aid. The Commission is expected to insist that the bank sells a large proportion of its non-French assets.

Craig McKinney, chairman and founder of Woodchester, said that he was confident of receiving a high level of interest from prospective purchasers. He holds about 2.5 million

shares, currently worth more than Ir£7 million.

Mr McKinney said that the group's operations had shown strong growth in 1996, with new business advances reaching Ir£12.2 billion, up 38 per cent. Earnings per share were up 19 per cent to 15.46p.

In the Republic of Ireland, the motor, agricultural equipment and business equipment finance sectors all performed well. In Northern Ireland, the company completed the acquisition of the financing arm of Charles Hurst, the region's largest motor group.

In the UK, new business advances were up 32 per cent in 1995, and in Denmark and Portugal the company continued to increase its market share.

In his results statement, Mr McKinney said: "Whilst the resolution of the Crédit Lyonnais shareholder issue is of key importance to the future of your group, it has not, and will not, deflect management's attention from the day-to-day running of the business."

The company declared a final dividend of 4.69p, giving a total of 7.85p, up 15 per cent, payable on May 16.

General Cable takes over Imminus for up to £33m

By FRASER NELSON

GENERAL CABLE is to step up its presence in business telecommunications after agreeing to buy Imminus, a managed data network supplies company, for up to £33 million.

General's revenues rose by 45 per cent last year, to £91.1 million, and it became cash flow positive with an inflow of £8.7 million (outflow of £3.25 million). The company said that it has completed 89 per cent of its infrastructure under its Cable Corp subsidiary, and

Birmingham Cable is 87 per cent complete.

Pre-tax losses deepened to an expected £29.8 million (£21.2 million loss). Losses per share were 9.6p (8.1p loss).

Sir Anthony Cleaver, the General Cable chairman, confirmed that talks have been held with a number of companies on the possibility of alliances or mergers, but declined to give details, and added that, in a fast-moving industry such as cable com-

munications, "everybody talks to everybody".

On financing, Sir Anthony said: "We have in place all the finance needed to carry out our current business plans."

General Cable expects to receive a national telecoms licence later this year, allowing it to offer telephony services outside its current franchise areas. The company said that it will stay a niche player in telephony, with no intention of taking on BT nationally.

Court threat to Coutts Consulting

By FRASER NELSON

COUTTS CONSULTING, the career adviser, has said it may be forced to turn to the City for extra cash if it loses a Fr£23.5 million court battle with the former owners of GBA, its French subsidiary.

The company, which is locked in dispute over what it claims is a loophole in its contract with GBA's former owners, said it would have to "negotiate additional funding" if it failed to close the loophole in the handover agreement.

The dispute centres on a clause in the contract in which Coutts agreed to pay GBA's former owners a percentage of improvement in profits between 1994 and 1995. The subsidiary made a loss in 1994, but returned to profit the year after. This created a substantial improvement of which its former owners are claiming their share. Coutts is arguing that it should be compensated for the 1994 losses, which would reduce the final payment to Fr£5.5 million.

Mobility in the employment market helped the company to lift pre-tax profits to £3.04 million (£2.39 million) last year, on sales of £38.3 million (£33.7 million). Earnings were 2.76p a share (2.52p), and the dividend rises to 2.3p (2p). A final 1.55p is due on June 30.

Disappointment as Graham takes a fall

GRAHAM GROUP, the builder's merchant, suffered a sharp fall in 1996 pre-tax profits to £10.7 million, from £19.3 million, as a result of competitive market conditions and volatile raw material prices. The company is holding the total dividend at 5.7p, with an unchanged 3.8p final, payable from earnings that fell to 5p a share, from 10.2p previously.

Sales increased 9.3 per cent to £533.9 million but operating profits fell 32.4 per cent to £15.9 million. The company said that although the results were disappointing, the performance had improved in the second half and at the year-end there were strong indications of increased activity related to the upturn in the housing market. The shares rose 5p to 143½ p against last year's high of 209p.

EasyJet's 200 new jobs

EASYJET, the low cost airline, is to create 200 jobs at its headquarters at Luton airport over the next year, nearly doubling its workforce. Most of the vacancies will be in the company's cabin crew and sales departments, but there will also be 30 new jobs for pilots. The sales and cabin staff will be recruited locally as far as possible, maintaining EasyJet's record of taking 90 per cent of staff from the local area. The company currently has five aircraft, with two more due to come into service by the end of the year.

Sirdar profits drop

SIRDAR, the wool company, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £2.586 million in the six months to December 31 from £3.299 million last time. Earnings fell from 3.46p a share to 3.16p a share although the interim dividend is held at 1.79p a share. Gerry Lumb, the chairman, said Sirdar's hand-knitting and machine yarns divisions are currently accepting business at improved margins, and forward bookings are at a higher level than last year. The company expects this division to be back into profit in the near future.

Quintain offer agreed

QUINTAIN ESTATES has made a £60 million agreed offer for Fiscal Properties and is buying the interests in Croydland & Estates (CLE) not owned by Fiscal, taking the total paid to £77 million. The value of Fiscal's existing portfolio is £81.6 million and CLE's is worth £55.6 million. Quintain plans to sell certain Fiscal and CLE properties deemed to be unsuitable for its enlarged portfolio. Quintain's offer values each Fiscal share at 72.7p, a premium of 12 per cent to Wednesday's closing price of 65p.

Carlton deal referred

THE Government yesterday referred the Carlton acquisition of Time Warner's Metrocolour London Ltd to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. John Taylor, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, said the decision had been made on the advice of the Director-General of Fair Trading. The MMC is required to make its report by June 25. Meanwhile, Time Warner said that it has abandoned plans to list on the London Stock Exchange. The decision follows its acquisition last October of Turner Broadcasting System Inc.

Cape looks at demerger

CAPE, the building materials group, is considering demerging its two remaining businesses as the final piece of its £6 million restructuring programme. The company is likely to jettison its industrial services arm and focus on producing fireproof building boards. The costs of shedding nine businesses left the company with a pre-tax loss of £13.2 million last year, against a £11.5 million profit last time. This brought losses to 24.7p per share (14p profit). The final dividend falls to 6p (11p), with a final 3p.

Passenger increase

THE number of passengers passing through Britain's big airports rose by 4.5 per cent last month, thanks to a huge increase in Irish traffic. BAA's seven British airports handled 6.5 million people in February 1997. The number of people travelling to and from Ireland increased by 17 per cent compared with February 1996, while numbers on other long haul routes rose 9.1 per cent. North Atlantic traffic was up 8.3 per cent. The number of passengers taking European scheduled flights rose 4.2 per cent, but European charter traffic fell 3.9 per cent.

Delphi buys stake

DELPHI GROUP, the computer software and services company, has acquired a strategic stake in Groupe Decan Europe, the French IT systems and services company, for £3.4 million. The deal was effected by the purchase of 25.01 per cent of GDE, the holding company that owns a 55 per cent stake in Groupe Decan. In addition, GD owns two properties with a book value of £1 million, which are solely used by Decan for its operations. In the year to June, Decan revenues amounted to £15.5 million while pre-tax profit was £1.7 million.

Live TV sends right signals to Mirror

By PAUL DURMAN



Montgomery: local progress

MIRROR GROUP said it was making good progress in attracting advertisers to its growing network of local TV stations.

Although Mirror's Live TV is best known for its national channel, with its News Bury and topless darts, it also offers local services in Birmingham, Westminster, Liverpool and Edinburgh. David Montgomery, the media group's chief executive, said: "Local markets are much more exciting than the national brand market."

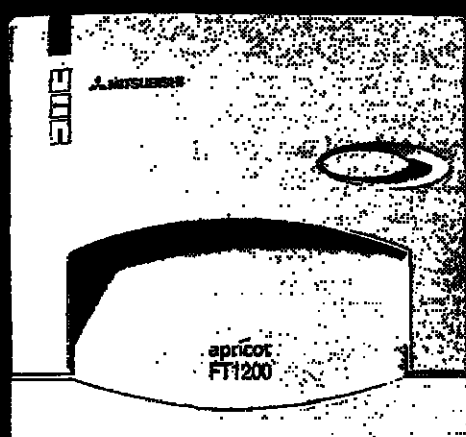
The share of advertising captured by Birmingham Live, the longest-established service, is five times better than Live TV's share of national advertising. Birmingham Live offers six hours of local news, inform-

ation and sport every day, and claims a bigger audience share than channels such as Sky News, MTV and CNN. Mirror said TV advertising revenues had consistently beaten targets, and Live TV remained on track to break into profit by the end of 1998. It will soon add local channels in Manchester, Newcastle and Glasgow. Yet local programming will only cost £4 million in 1997.

Mirror was reporting a 6.6 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits to £82.2 million. The group also made an exceptional profit of £19.4 million, mainly from property. Turnover rose 7.3 per cent to £538 million. The company was pleased that The

Mirror and its other newspapers had overcome sharply higher newsprint costs of £130 million through higher cover prices and a 6.7 per cent rise in advertising revenue. It said it had improved its papers through the introduction of supplements such as The Mirror's Football Mania.

Scottish Television, in which Mirror holds a 20 per cent stake, contributed profits of £12.2 million. However, the £5.6 million of this that came from trading was wiped out by losses, believed to be about £7 million, from The Independent and Independent on Sunday, in which Mirror has a 46.3 per cent interest.



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THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 14 1997

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Council possession action lawful

Harrow London Borough Council v Johnson

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Mustill, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Clyde

[Speeches March 13]

Where a wife was joint tenant with her husband of the matrimonial home, a council house, and on the break-up of the marriage gave notice to the council terminating the tenancy, neither she nor the council was in contempt of a court order restraining her from evicting or attempting to evict her husband from the house and proceedings by the council for possession were not an abuse of the process of the court.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by Harrow London Borough Council from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Russell and Sir Roger Parker, Lord Justice Hobhouse dissenting) (7 Times March 31, 1995, [1995] 3 All ER 435) which had dismissed the council's appeal against the dismissal by Judge Hunter at Willesden County Court on August 9, 1994 of its claim for possession against the husband, Maurice Ernest Johnson.

Mr Andrew Arden, QC and Mr Frank Fiedler for the council; Mr Nicholas Underhill and Mr Adrian Jack for Mr Johnson.

LORD MUSTILL said that the tenancy agreement had provided that the tenants might terminate the tenancy, a secure tenancy under the Housing Act 1985, by four weeks written notice.

The marriage had run into difficulties, and in 1992 the wife

had commenced divorce proceedings, although they had not immediately pursued and had not reached the stage of a decree until 1995.

In February 1994, matters had come to a head. The wife had left the house with the children and the husband had applied to the county court for a prohibited steps order under the Children Act 1989 and an injunction under the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1976.

The judge had made, ex parte, the prohibited steps order and an order forbidding the wife "whether by herself or by instructing or encouraging any other person" (i) to use or threaten violence against the applicant or in any way to harass or otherwise interfere with him; (2) to exclude or attempt to exclude him from the house.

Since Mr Johnson had remained in possession of the house and the wife had been unwilling to return she had needed somewhere else to live and had applied to the council. It was, however, contrary to council policy to provide accommodation to someone who already had a council tenancy, and it had suggested to her that she should serve notice terminating the joint tenancy, which she had done. At that time, it had been unaware of the injunction.

The council had sent Mr Johnson a copy of the notice to terminate and told him that his tenancy would come to an end on April 25. On receipt of the notice, he had told it about the injunction. He had remained in the house, and the council had brought

proceedings for possession. His defence was that by giving the notice the wife had been in breach of the injunction and was in contempt.

By bringing the proceedings when aware of the injunction the council had aided and abetted her in that breach and was itself in contempt and the proceedings were an abuse of the process of the court. The judge had accepted that submission and dismissed the council's claim for possession.

In the light of the principles in *Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council v Monk* ([1992] 1 AC 478) the wife's notice had been effective to terminate the joint tenancy, and other things being equal, the council had been entitled to possession.

Mr Johnson's application for an injunction had been made under the 1976 Act. It was plain that the prohibition against excluding him from the house had not been intended to be a mandatory order requiring the wife to co-operate in maintaining in force the rights created by the joint tenancy pending the adjustment of those rights in matrimonial proceedings for proprietary relief not yet started. It had been concerned with the exercise of rights under the tenancy, not with the continued existence of the rights themselves.

Mr Johnson's second line of argument relied on the general argument in preserving the integrity of the judicial process.

It was based primarily on *Attorney-General v Times Newspapers Ltd* ([1992] 1 AC 191), in which the House of Lords, reinforced by *Attorney-General v Leveller*

Magazine Ltd ([1997] AC 440). The difference, however, from the *Spencer* case was that to his argument. No proceedings designed to yield proprietary relief had been in existence at the relevant time. No inference of an intention to frustrate the aim of the proceedings could be drawn from the council's dealings with the wife, since there had been no proceedings to frustrate.

Mr Johnson then advanced a more extreme argument: that the council should have foreseen that there were, or might be in the future, proceedings in which the court would be called on to address the proprietary rights of the spouses and that the destruction of the tenancy would cause irreparable damage to Mr Johnson.

His Lordship acknowledged the appeal of the argument in human terms, but the council had simply been carrying through the logic of its housing policy: that one person could not have two council tenancies at the same time.

He found it impossible to hold that by putting its statutory duty as housing authority before the interests of a matrimonial relationship of which it was not the guardian it had contemptuously subverted the authority of the court or intentionally nullified the aims of any legal proceedings.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Jauncey and Lord Clyde agreed and Lord Hoffmann delivered an opinion agreeing with Lord Mustill.

Solicitors: Mr Roger Vergine, Harrow; Rosenbergs, Kenilworth Town.

Regina v Beedie

Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Dyson and Mr Justice Timothy Walker

[Judgment March 11]

In *Connolly v DPP* ([1996] AC 1254) the majority of the House of Lords identified a narrow principle of autoeius convict, applicable only when the second indictment charged the same offence as the first, and said that judicial discretion should be exercised in other appropriate cases.

The Court of Appeal, relying on a reserved judgment allowing the appeal of Thomas Sim Beedie and quashing his conviction on April 19, 1996 at Sheffield Crown Court (Judge Clarke), following a plea of guilty to manslaughter, for which he received an 18-month prison sentence, suspended for two years.

Mr Robert Smith, QC and Mr Bernard Gateshill, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr K. R. Keen, QC, and Mr D. Tremberg for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, delivering the judgment of the court, said that on November 29, 1995, following a riot caused by the use of a defective gas fire in his bed in Hull.

The appellant was the landlord and had a duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to ensure that the fire was maintained and repaired.

On June 14, 1994 he pleaded guilty in the magistrates court to an offence contrary to section 33 of the 1974 Act arising from a breach of duty imposed by section 32. He was fined £1,500 and ordered to pay £418 costs.

Proceedings were also taken by the city council against the appellant as manager of the premises, under section 369 of the Housing Act 1985 and regulations 7 and 8 of the Housing (Management of Premises) Regulations (SI 1990 No 830) in relation to the state of a number of other gas installations in the same premises. On July 6, 1994 the appellant pleaded guilty before the justices to all charges and was granted a conditional

discharge and ordered to pay £1,000 costs.

The adjourned inquest on the deceased woman was resumed on August 25, 1994. The jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing.

On September 6, 1994 the police, for the first time, notified the Crown Prosecution Service about the case. On March 25, 1995 the appellant attended for interview by the police and declined to comment. He was charged with manslaughter.

At trial, Mr Smith applied to stay the indictment, relying on *Connolly v DPP*. The judge rejected the submission and found the appellant guilty. The first and second grounds of appeal asserted that the judge erred in law in rejecting the plea of autoeius convict and that the judge's analysis of the speeches in *Connolly* led him to conclude, wrongly, that the plea could only be successful if the legal characteristics of both offences were the same.

Next it was argued, based on *Connolly*, that the judge had a discretion to stay the proceedings because to proceed with them would offend the general rule that no man should be punished twice for an offence arising out of the same or substantially the same set of facts and to do so would offend the established principle that there should be no sequential trials for offences on an ascending scale of gravity: see the approval of *R v Gillingham* (1988) 1 B & S 688 in *Connolly* (at pp1332, 1337-8, 1367).

It was submitted further that the judge wrongly exercised his discretion in failing to identify special circumstances justifying further proceedings, in carrying out an inappropriate balancing exercise, in seeking to distinguish *Connolly* on the ground that the relevant indictment rule, now rule 9 of the Indictment Rules (SI 1971 No 1253 (L1)), applied in *Connolly* but not to the instant proceedings, and in concluding that the instant proceedings were capable of curing any risk of oppression or prejudice.

On reflection, Mr Smith conceded that Mr Justice Clarke's analysis of the speeches in *Connolly* was correct, namely, that the majority of the House of Lords

identified a narrow principle of autoeius convict, applicable only where the same offence was alleged in the second indictment. In their Lordships' judgment that concession was rightly made.

It followed that their Lordships were unable to accept the view of the editors of *Archbold Criminal Pleading, Evidence & Practice* ([1997] paragraph 4-17) that Lord Morris's speech, and in particular, his third and fourth principles expressed at p1305, that the principle of autoeius convict applied to offences which were the same or substantially the same, and an appropriate test was whether the evidence to support the second indictment or the facts constituting the second offence would have been sufficient to procure a conviction on the first indictment, represented the ratio of the House's decision.

The majority of their Lordships in *Connolly* defined autoeius convict in the narrow way, to apply when the second indictment charged the same offence as the first, and said that judicial discretion should be exercised in other appropriate cases.

It was apparent that the principal focus of the appeal was on the way in which Mr Justice Clarke had exercised the discretion which it was common ground he had. In their Lordships' judgment, Mr Smith's submissions in relation to the judge's exercise of discretion were all well founded. Although the judge carefully and accurately analysed the effect of the speeches in *Connolly*, which was no mean feat, in applying those principles to the facts of his case he fell into error.

First, he failed to consider whether there were special circumstances and there were none. The public interest in a prosecution for manslaughter and the understandable concern of the victim's family were, no doubt, good reasons for allowing the prosecution to proceed. They did not, however, give rise to special circumstances.

Second, he carried out a balancing exercise when that was inappropriate.

Third, he sought to distinguish *Connolly* on the basis of the Indictment Rules, when no such

distinction was to be found.

Fourth, he took into account, inappropriately, the question of whether there could be a fair trial. It seemed to their Lordships that the judge having exercised his discretion on a flawed basis, it was open to the court to exercise its discretion.

There being no special circumstances in the present case the general rule should have prevailed. A stay should have been ordered because the manslaughter allegation was based on substantially the same facts as the earlier summary prosecution, and gave rise to a prosecution for an offence of greater gravity, no new facts having occurred, in breach of the *Elliott* principle.

Although their Lordships differed from the judge, it should be noted that he faced a very unusual and difficult task. He had to make a decision in the light of intense local public interest, guidance from the House of Lords which had been widely misunderstood by practitioners for over 30 years and submissions from counsel which had not been honed before him to the precision which they achieved before their Lordships.

Their Lordships could see no reason why, prior to the institution of the summary proceedings, the Crown Prosecution Service should not have been alerted by the police, the Health and Safety Executive or the local authority to the inquiry which was being undertaken into the death of the unfortunate young woman.

Had that been done, it should have been possible for a sensible joint decision to be reached as to what charges could and should have been properly brought against the appellant, and no doubt manslaughter would have been among them.

It was understood that liaison between the separate prosecuting authorities in the North East had now improved, so that the history of the present prosecution should not be repeated. Their Lordships expressed the hope and expectation that a like degree of liaison already existed in other parts of the country.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Humberside.

Declaration discharged on making reference

Regina v Secretary of State for Employment, Ex parte Seymour-Smith and Another

Before Lord Mustill, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead and Lord Hoffmann

[Speeches March 13]

A declaration that the effect of the provision introduced by the Unfair Dismissal (Variation of Qualifying Period) Order (SI 1985 No 782, that an employee must have been employed for two years to qualify for the protection against unfair dismissal conferred by section 54(1) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978, indirectly discriminated against women between 1985 and 1991 and was incompatible with the principle of equal treatment enshrined in Directive 76/207/EEC (OJ 1976 L360/40), served no useful purpose as it could not affect the rights and duties of employees and their employers and would be discharged.

Instead, a reference would be made to the European Court of Justice to establish whether the 1985 Order infringed article 119 of the EC Treaty.

The House of Lords so held in considering preliminary points in an appeal by the Secretary of State for Employment against a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Roch and Lord

Justice Schiemann) (7 Times August 3, 1995; [1995] ICR 889) allowing an appeal by the appellants, Ms Seymour-Smith and Ms Laura Perez, from the dismissal by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court of their application for judicial review.

Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr Stephen Richards for the secretary of state; Mr Robin Allen, QC and Mr Peter Duffy for the appellants.

LORD HOFFMANN said that by virtue of a consistent jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice it was clear that a directive, as such, had no effect upon the rights of parties such as the appellants and their employers. The position was otherwise when the question concerned the rights and duties of the citizen as against the state or one of its emanations: see *Marshall v Southampton and South-West Hampshire Area Health Authority* (Case 152/84) ([1986] QB 401; [1986] ECR 723).

It was therefore, clear that a declaration such as was made by the Court of Appeal, would not enable the employees to pursue their proceedings in the industrial court. Would it serve any other purpose?

The difficulty was that the declaration was not that United Kingdom legislation was incompatible with the Convention. It was that such an incompatibility existed in May 1991. That was

founded upon evidence that the two year qualifying period had a considerably greater adverse impact upon women than upon men during the years 1985 to 1991.

It was not evident that it was having such a discriminatory effect at the time of the judgment in the summer of 1995. On the contrary, the evidence showed that by 1993 the gap between the men and women who qualified had narrowed.

The declaration neither enabled the employees to sue for unfair dismissal nor told the government that United Kingdom legislation needed to be changed because it was incompatible with Community law.

It was contended that the declaration could found a *Francovich* claim against the state: see *Francovich and Bonifazi v Italian Republic* (Cases C-6 and 9/90) ([1991] ECR T22).

In *R v Secretary of State for Employment, Ex parte Equal Opportunities Commission* ([1995] 1 AC 1) the House refused to make a declaration on similar grounds. Lord Keith of Kinkaid said (at p32) that it would be inappropriate as the Attorney-General would be the defendant in any proceedings directed at enforcing it and the issues raised would not necessarily be the same.

There were no grounds upon which that reasoning did not apply to the present case.

A person claiming to be entitled as a matter of private law to compensation for unfair dismissal should ordinarily bring proceedings in the industrial tribunal even if they raised an issue of incompatibility between domestic and Community law. But this was an exceptional case. The question of compatibility with article 119 was raised for the first time in the Court of Appeal and the court was satisfied that it was right to give leave to amend.

Subject to one matter it raised the same issues as the question of incompatibility with the Directive and could be resolved by the evidence which was before the Divisional Court.

The position was the same before the House and the parties had come prepared to deal with it. It would, therefore, be wrong to tell the employees at the state that they had to start again before the industrial tribunal.

The House should entertain the appeal. However, the parties were agreed that it was necessary to enable the House to give judgment that the European Court of Justice be requested to give preliminary rulings on certain questions on the construction of article 119.

Lord Mustill, Lord Jauncey, Lord Slynn and Lord Nicholls agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Ms Gay Moon, Camden.

W v Home Office

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Walker

[Judgment February 19]

An immigration officer's decision whether to detain a person under the Immigration Act 1971 did not give rise to any duty of care which could result in an action for negligence.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff asylum seeker, W, against the dismissal by Sir Michael Davies, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division on June 6, 1996 on the trial of preliminary issues, dismissing his action for damages for negligence against the Home Office.

Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Mr Tim Owen for the plaintiff; Mr

John Howell, QC and Mr Robin Tam for the Home Office.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the question was whether the Home Secretary or an immigration officer owed a duty of care to an individual detained by virtue of paragraph 16 of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971 when making a decision whether to release that individual from detention and when taking the steps were required to take that decision.

The plaintiff wished to push forward the boundaries of the tort of negligence or, as he submitted, revive a forgotten cause of action of negligent detention.

Many authorities had considered recently where the boundaries should be drawn. The applicable principles were:

1 For a duty of care to arise, in addition to the foreseeability of damage, necessary ingredients were that there should exist between the party owing the duty and the party to whom the duty was owed a relationship of proximity and that the situation should be one in which the court considered it fair, just and reasonable that the law should impose a duty.

2 It would normally be unnecessary to embark on any further inquiry whether it was fair,

just and reasonable if a person had assumed responsibility to another in respect of services.

3 The mere existence of a relationship brought about by one party exercising a statutory power vis-à-vis another was not sufficient to found proximity on its own.

4 There could be no liability in respect of anything done within the ambit of a discretion conferred by statute.

5 It was less likely that a duty of care would be imposed on a person exercising his public duty, that is, even where the statutory duty was being implemented, if a potential conflict could arise between the carrying out of the public duty and acting defensively for fear of an action in negligence being brought:

(a) where the category of public servant was one similar to the police or the Crown Prosecution Service and where

(b) the general sense of public duty of such servants was unlikely to be appreciably reinforced by the imposition of liability;

(c) the recognition of the existence of a cause of action even in quite limited circumstances would be likely to lead to the bringing of a substantial number of cases and diversion of the public servants concerned away from their duties contrary to the general public interest; and

(d) where there were other private law remedies available if there was a deliberate abuse of power and public law remedies available to challenge decisions.

The application of each of those principles to the situation under consideration was inconsistent with the existence of a duty of care being owed by the immigration officer to the immigrant.

In gathering information and taking it into account the immigration officers were acting pursuant to their statutory powers and within that area of their discretion where only deliberate abuse would provide a private remedy.

For them to owe a duty of care to immigrants would be inconsistent with the proper performance of their responsibilities as immigration officers. In conducting their inquiries, and making decisions in relation to immigrants, including whether they should be detained pending those inquiries, they were acting in that capacity of public servant to which the considerations outlined above applied.

It would not be fair or reasonable to impose liability for negligence in the case of an immigration officer performing his public duty.

Solicitors: Winstanley-Burgess, Treasury Solicitor.

Computer program is not a patentable invention

In re Patent Application No 9204959.2 by Fujitsu Ltd

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Aldous

[Judgment March 6]

A patent application, entitled "Method and apparatus for creating synthetic crystal structure images", in essence a method for modelling on computer a crystal structure for use in designing inorganic materials in the field of chemistry and physics, was a computer program as such, and thus not a patentable invention.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal from the dismissal by Mr Justice Laddie in the Patents Court of the Chancery Division (The

Times June 18, 1996), of an appeal from the rejection by the Principal Examiner on June 23, 1995, of a patent application by Fujitsu Ltd on the ground that it was excluded by section 1(2) of the Patents Act 1977.

Colin Birss for Fujitsu, instructed by Haselaine Lake & Co, Bristol; patent attorneys; Mr Michael Silverleaf, QC, for the Comptroller General of Patents.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS said that the basic idea utilised a computer programmed so that the operator could select an atom, a lattice vector and a crystal face in each of two crystal structures displayed on the display unit.

Upon instruction the computer, using the selected requirements,

converted data representing the physical layouts of the two crystal structures into data representing the physical layout of the crystal structure that would be obtained by combining the original crystal structures in such a way that the two selected structures were superposed.

The resulting data was then displayed to give a picture of the combined structure. The crystal structures the inventor particularly had in mind were those of semiconductors and superconductors.

Having considered the relevant claims in the present application, his Lordship said that it was and always had been a principle of patent law that mere discoveries or ideas were not patentable, but

those which had a technical aspect or made a technical contribution were.

That was the basis for the decision of the Technical Board of Appeal in *VICOM/Computerized image inventions* (Case T 208/84) ([1987] EPOR 74), had been accepted by the Court of Appeal and by the European Patent Office, had been applied since 1987 and was at the heart of patent law.

Mr Birss submitted, inter alia, that the EPCOM case showed that patent applications for processing images of real things were not excluded from being patentable.

His Lordship did not find the board's reasoning as to what was the technical contribution easy to accept. But the decision did not conclude that all claims to process-

ing real images were patentable; and there was no reason why, if they were, the same reasoning should not apply to all useful images. There, the technical contribution was not the fact that an image was being produced. It was the enhanced image which was produced.

No such contribution existed in *Gale's Application* ([1991] RPC 305), which related to a ROM programmed to enable a computer to carry out a mathematical calculation, or in *Merrill Lynch's Application* ([1989] RPC 561), which related to a data processing system for making a trading market in securities. Each case had to be decided on its own facts.

Mr Birss also relied on the form of the claims, that claim 10, directed as it was to a computer apparatus having a number of features, and claim 9, directed to a method of manufacturing a structure, could not be said to relate to an invention consisting of computer program as such.

However, that could not be right since the Court of Appeal in *Gale's Application* held that the court should look at the claims as a matter of substance; it was both convenient and right to strip away, as a confusing irrelevance, the fact that the claim was for "hardware".

Mr Birss further contended that the application provided a new tool for modelling crystal structure combinations which relieved the chemist of the laborious task of building a model.

His Lordship said that counsel was right that a computer set-up according to the teaching in the patent application provided a tool for modelling such combinations which avoided labour and error, but those were just the sort of advantages obtained by the use of a computer program.

The application, in the present case, was for a computer program as such. The combined structure was the result of the directions given by the operator and use of the program. The computer was conventional as was the display unit.

The two displays of crystal structures were produced by the operator. He then provided the appropriate way of superposition and the program did the rest. The resulting display was the combined structure shown pictorially in a form that would in the past have been produced as a model.

The only advance was the computer program which enabled the combined structure to be portrayed quicker. Thus the application did not relate to a patentable invention, and was excluded by section 1(2)(b) of the 1977 Act.

Lord Justice Leggatt and Lord Justice Roch agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF PERMAN SECURITIES LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)

On 6 March 1997 the company was placed in creditors' voluntary liquidation. The liquidator, Jonathan Glyn Williams, 200 London Bridge, London SE1 1AF, has been appointed liquidator. Creditors of the company are requested to send details in writing of their claims to the liquidator at the above address. Claims need not be in any particular form, but creditors wishing to claim VAT must detail their claim and request to complete the form issued by the liquidator. The liquidator reserves his right to require a creditor to support his claim by evidence. Date 10 March 1997. JGA Phillips, Liquidator.

Authorised for insertion in the London Gazette by the Insolvency Practitioner, JULIA PRINCE, Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

FINANCIAL NOTICES

THE CARNEGIE UNITED KINGDOM TRUST
Abstract of Audited Accounts
For the Year Ended 31 December 1996

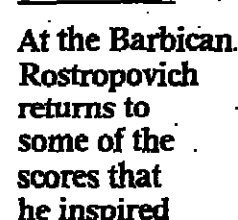
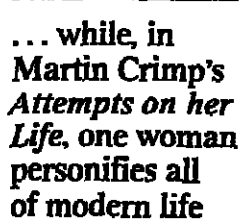
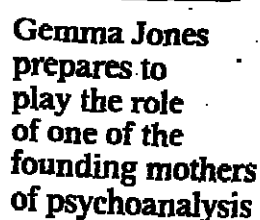
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Income and Pensions	27,496,902
Endowment Fund	1,263,735
Other Funds	25,700,437
Reserve Fund	1,150,921
As at 31 December 1995	1,517,888
Income from investments, etc	2,668,609
Less:	
Direct Charitable Expenditure	1,153,368
Other Expenditure	316,906
As at 31 December 1996	1,464,774
C JOHN NAYLOR Secretary and Treasurer County Park House, Dunsfurn, File KY12 7EJ 12 March 1997	

PROTECTOR DESIGN LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, 20 Eastbourne Road, Weybridge, Surrey, on 27 March 1997 at 10.00 am. Creditors of the company are requested to send details in writing of their claims to the liquidator at the above address. Claims need not be in any particular form, but creditors wishing to claim VAT must detail their claim and request to complete the form issued by the liquidator. The liquidator reserves his right to require a creditor to support his claim by evidence. Date 10 March 1997. Robert Davis, Director.

THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
EXTENDED CREDITORS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION OF PERMAN SECURITIES LIMITED

An extraordinary general meeting of Permanent Securities Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales, is being held at the offices of Minter & Wolf, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64,



Some of the oldest painted portraits in the world go on show at the British Museum

Shrinking into a dream role

Melanie Klein is to be portrayed on stage next week. **Jeremy Kingston** reports

Melanie Klein was the most influential of that generation of analysts who came after the founding father. Born in 1882, the youngest child of a Viennese dentist, she married young and in order to do so was obliged to abandon her medical studies. This later exposed her to much criticism

■ Mrs Klein is in preview at the Watford Palace (01923 225671) from next Friday, and opens on March 25

Little ci

al, absorbing play consists of sketches, conversations or monologues about the always absent Anne, Annie, Anya or little Annushka. She is the icily murderous member of the Baader-Meinhof gang, and the wife of an American militiaman dedicated to hunting

gays and Jews. She is a traveller who, bewildered by a life spent partly with starving Africans and partly beside millionaires' swimming pools, drowns herself. She is a raging avant-garde sculptor, a dead child driven by her demented mother out of a war zone, a

celebrity, a conventional bore, even a car named the Anna. I began to worry during a short section in which she was described as a nymphomaniac who spoke five languages and had discovered a particle "which will completely change the way we look at the Universe". Was there anything Anne wasn't? Was Crimp's invention wholly arbitrary? At different times the actors sit at a dinner table, peer from red, smoking holes, perch in a plane, prepare to set light to a bowed victim. Faces appear on television sets. Projections of X-rayed luggage pass across a big screen. Would it have

Attempts on her Life

Ambassadors

added or subtracted anything. If I had leapt onstage and, accompanied by balloons and a band, had declared that Anne was a Russian gymnast with an interest in racing pigeons? Well, maybe. The play has its motifs, connections and recurring preoccupations. Anne does not just represent confusion. Crimp is absorbed with the mind-splitting contradictions of a world where some are very rich, others very poor, some suffering terribly, others fighting or defending the status quo almost as horribly. At any rate, any alien who unpacks his time-capac will be left with the impression of a planet on which atrocities perform for gloating TV audiences, and nice people chat while their neighbours run stark mad.

By the end I did not feel inclined to dispute the sharpness of Crimp's prose, the fluency of Tim Albery's production or the excellence of Ashley Jensen, David Fielder and the rest of the cast. But I did go home a mite disconcerted. My wife is called Anne.

BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE

Slava's choice

Lutosławski's *Novelette*, written in 1979, is also an unsettling piece, but is more fruitful effect. Its structure is both coherently organised and readily discerned, with thematic fragments threading their way through the five movements (an Announcement, three Events and a Conclusion). But *Novelette* is a study in disintegration as much as construction, and Rostropovich and the LSO skillfully delineated the

For Schnittke's *Symphony No. 6*, the anger of the Walton combined with the imagination of the Lutoslawski to produce a score of uncompromising severity, with a sparseness that speaks of some dark and deeply pessimistic moral vision.

The most notable feature of the first movement is the extended paragraphs of growing brass low in their register – like an interminable funeral procession – offset by dialogues for high violins, low strings or other combinations. Indeed, the movement proceeds at a steady pace (in Rostropovich's reading), and it is not until the Presto second movement that things catch fire. The third movement, Adagio, was taken at what seemed an excessively lugubrious tempo. But the intensity was there, as it was in the finale.

All credit to Rostropovich and the LSO for rendering these difficult but strangely complementary scores so convincingly.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Dark dreaming

THE Wigmore Hall was dark on Thursday. And out of the gloom rose the sweet, thin voice of a violin, singing of the stars. The words followed from the shadows at the back of the hall — "*Som stjärnen uppd himmeln klar*" (like the stars in the bright sky) and a figure made his way up the aisle and on to the stage.

This was the start of Håkan Hagegård's little *Nordic Drama*: a set of six songs from Sweden, Norway and Finland, with Mozart (*Don Giovanni's* serenade, *Deh vieni*) as a rather embarrassed link-man between unaccompanied folk liddle and piano-accompanied Wilhelm Stenhammar. This latter was a song called *Flore*; and *Blanzefor*, a sort of Pre-Raphaelite salon melodrama, and its presence typified the elusive stream of consciousness which seemed to be linking (or otherwise) the individual songs.

With Hagegård variously turning his back on the audience for a short, violent *King Erik's Last Song* by the Swedish composer Ture Rangström, then clinging to a marble pillar as if it were a rockface for Grieg's *The Mountain Thrall*, this Nordic

Håkan Hagegård
Wigmore Hall


drama began to resemble a surreal dream play. Sibelius's *Was it a Dream?* led to a return of the violin with its modal melancholy.

The Wigmore Hall audience has quite an appetite for this sort of thing, so it was a pity that Hagegård did not extend his dreamplay to the whole of the first half. Instead, he completed it with four popular Schubert songs: a very risky enterprise in this hall.

Both Hagegård and, particularly, pianist Elisabeth Boström were more at ease in a group of songs by Richard Strauss, which revealed the wide expressive range of Hagegård's baritone. And then a welcome performance of the American composer Dominick Argento's *A few words about Chekhov*, graphically recreated, in costume, by Hagegård, Boström and the vivacious Swedish soprano Charlotte Hellekant.

HILARY FINCH

Little cipher Annie



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JOHN SAYLES

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knocks even
Tarantino's
for six."**
Geoff Andrew TIME OUT

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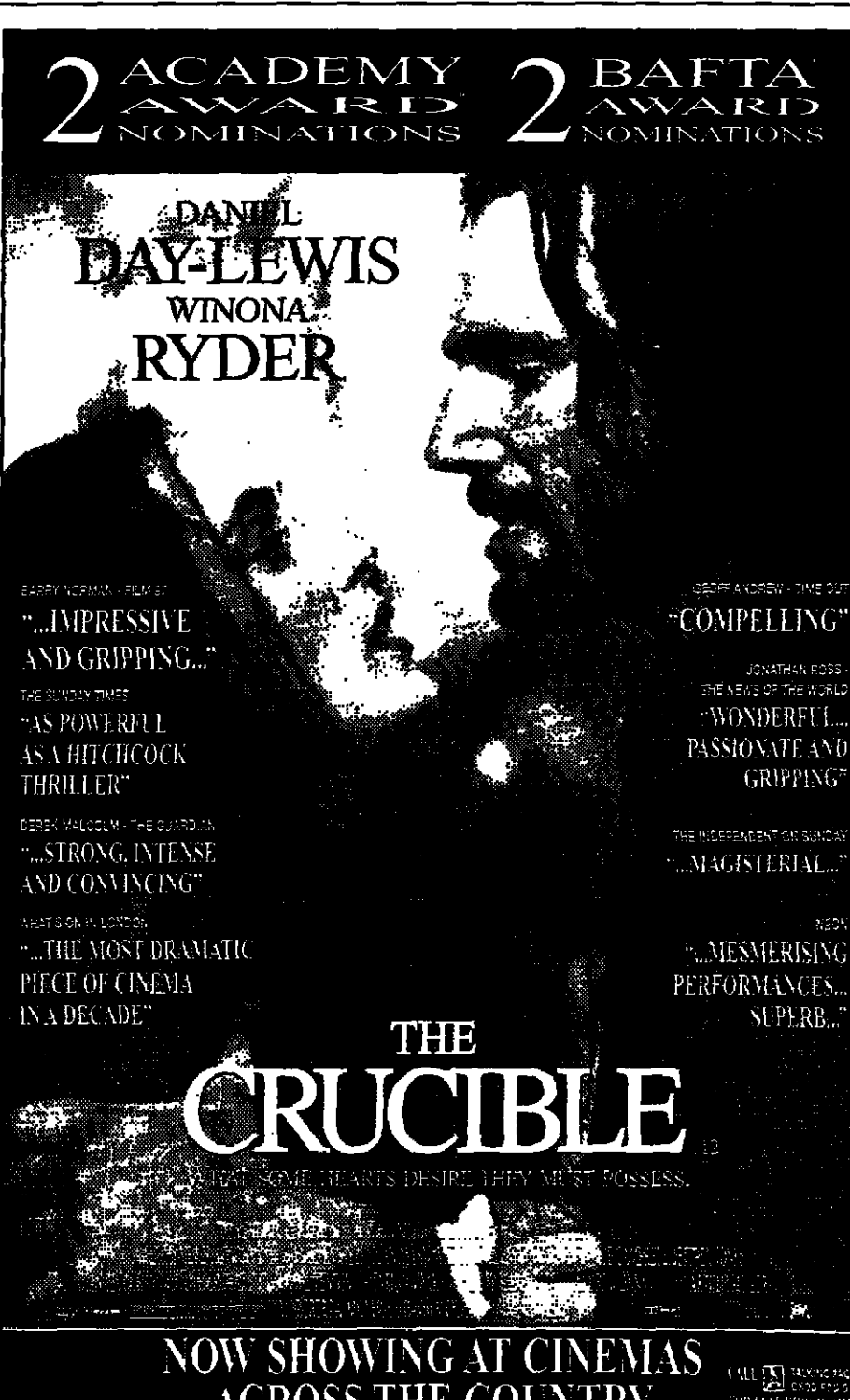
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POP 2

Strings, brass and a dash of kitsch make up the sonic stew on My Life Story's new album



POP 3

At the age of 76, John Lee Hooker is starting to sound a little weary of the blues



POP 4

Those bad old boys, Aerosmith, are back in winning ways with the vintage *Nine Lives*



JAZZ

Claire Martin combines brio and sensitivity on an album of classic New York ballads

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair dips into My Life Story's lush tales of the louche, but gets buried alive in the blues

Love with strings attached

MY LIFE STORY

The Golden Mile (Parlophone 7243 8 55628 £9.99)
WHAT with the recent return of ABC and the sudden rise of the Divine Comedy, the stage could not be better set for the unveiling of *The Golden Mile*, the second album by My Life Story.

As the only modern pop group (apart from Mike Flowers Pops) to employ the full-time services of a four-piece string section and three-piece brass section instead of the usual guitars and keyboards, My Life Story have evolved a sound that is grand, glamorous and not a little kitsch. Certainly, their involvement elsewhere with P.J. Proby and Marc Almond can have been no accident.

The bedsprings twang like a pizzicato string. Jake Shillingford sings in his well-manicured tones on *Marriage Blister*, a typically upbeat number that harnesses a lyric quivering with knowing irony to the swirling sounds of a less complicated romantic pop era.

From the chirpy nonsense of *The King of Kissin'gdom* to the more serious point of *You Can't Unear the Apple*, it is all very precise and mildly seductive, if rather self-consciously arch.

JOHN LEE HOOKER

Don't Look Back (Pointblank/Virgin America 7243 8 4271 £13.99)
R.L. BURNSIDE

Mr Wizard (Fat Possum/Epic 0301 £14.99)
IT IS all very well to talk about pop stars sliding into a comfortable middle age, but what are we to make of these crusty old bluesmen who are still cranking out their strange wodeo well into their pensionable years?

John Lee Hooker, 76, and R.L. Burnside, 70, are two of the last surviving blues originals. Both

were born in rural Mississippi, and both migrated to the urban north in the 1940s: Hooker to Detroit, Burnside to Chicago. But, for all the similarities of background, their new albums come from opposite sides of the tracks.

In the past decade Hooker has acquired the status of a godhead. A master of his craft, he now takes the respect of his industry and the affection of his public for granted. Celebrity musicians routinely beat a path to Hooker's door, and his new album is produced for the most part by Van Morrison, who also plays a supporting role on several of the tracks.

But all this respect and musicianly bonhomie has rather blunted Hooker's edge. *Don't Look Back* begins with a look back at *Dimples*, a song Hooker first recorded in 1956. Accompanied on this one by Los Lobos, Hooker gives a sprightly account of himself without adding anything to the original. But, as the album progresses, his grip gradually relaxes to the point where he sounds as if he could be doing this in his sleep.

Long stretches of languid ad-libbing and lazy call-and-response routines with Morrison seem to conceal Hooker's rather tenuous grasp of the song structures, which is odd considering he wrote most of them himself. But a rumbling version of Morrison's *The Healing Game* and a feeble trot through Jimi Hendrix's *Red House* add nothing in the way of spice or variety to what now sounds like an overly well-trodden groove.

In stark contrast, Burnside remains very much the outsider, a man who, for all his experience, has yet to enjoy more than a nodding acquaintance with fame, let alone fortune. His collaborators on *Mr Wizard* are either punk desperados the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion (on two tracks), or else a

clattery homegrown duo comprising his grandson, Cedric Burnside, on drums and guitarist Kenny Brown, whom some call "R.L.'s only white son".

The absence of a bass guitar anywhere on the album lends an authentic, garage band frisson to the sound, but the reckless, raucous urgency of tracks such as *Allee Mae*, *Rollin' & Tumblin'* and *Georgia Women* is more to do with the supremely abandoned delivery of Burnside himself. On two unaccompanied tracks — *Over the Hill* and a version of the Rev. Gary Davis/Fred McDowell standard *You Gotta Move* — Burnside howls and hollers as if his life depended

on it, while inflicting all kinds of grievous bodily harm on an approximately tuned slide guitar.

While Hooker takes a well-deserved rest on his laurels, Burn-

side summons up the original, hellhound-driven spirit of the blues with an anarchic fervour that few performers of any generation could hope to match.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(1)	Pop	U2 (Island)
2	(2)	Spice	Spice Girls (Virgin)
3	(3)	Everything Must Go	Manic Street Preachers (Epic)
4	(4)	Ocean Drive	Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
5	(5)	Still Waters	Bee Gees (Polydor)
6	(13)	B-Sides, Seaside & Freerides	Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
7	(20)	The Very Best of	Bee Gees (Polydor)
8	(14)	Evita	Original Soundtrack (Warner Bros)
9	(6)	Dreamland	Robert Miles (Deconstruction)
10	(10)	Older	George Michael (Virgin)

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Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

AEROSMITH

Nine Lives (Columbia COL 485020 £13.99)
HAVING toyed with the idea of updating their sound, then wisely rejecting it, Aerosmith have come up with another gilt-edged collection of heart-on-sleeve, tongue-in-cheek, bad-boy rock'n'roll songs, written and performed as only they know how. "My old libido has been blowing a transistor," Steven Tyler

sings on the single, *Falling in Love (It's Hard on the Knees)*, a theme to which he returns on many occasions, most notably on the lubricious *Taste Of India*, where the band goes for a kind of tandoori Led Zeppelin sound.

Elsewhere, the first person singular is never far from Tyler's lyrics — "I got terminal uniqueness. I'm an egocentric man," he proclaims in *The Farm* — as the band mixes high-voltage rockers such as *Crash* with old-fashioned power ballads, including *Fallen Angels*, *Full Circle* and *Hole in my Soul*. Like a winning soft drink formula, some things are simply too good to tamper with.

Compact discs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023 498

Maybe it's because I'm getting old (21, with a mortgage, and just starting to realise that cigarettes are bad for you), but really. Teenage pop bands — what's that all about? What are they doing? And why are "elderly" people (those over 30) suddenly going wobbly for it? What about that 37, for one? Michael Jackson's little cousins, plucked eyebrows, make-up seemingly welded on to their faces, and scary, blank, we've-had-agents-from-the-second-we-were-conceived eyes. Ask them a question not cleared by management four days in advance and they just emit strange clicking and buzzing sounds.

And Boyzone! Charmless goons with shiny faces, the wit

Over 30? Don't you think it's time you grew up?

of a small pebble, and dance-routines that look like five old guys continually on the verge of falling over. And the amount of cover-versions they get through: they're nothing more than a nipple-revealing Robson & Jerome.

And Spice Girls! Two-bit hoopers whose Girl Power manifesto seems to consist of exposing breasts for maximum publicity. Hardly *The Female Eunuch* with a dance-beat, is it?

And Backstreet Boys! Haven't the foggiest clue what they look like, but I'm convinced they'd come off second

best in a brain-and-talent contest with a flock of hens.

Of course, there have always been manufactured pop bands. They're something management companies do in their spare time, carefully putting together projects that include the Cute One; the Vaguely Menacing One; the Serious One and the Jokey One. If you're in marketing, you'd probably explain the teenie-band phenomenon as trainer-bra music, something sweet and palatable to prepare you for the real thing — underwiring and Oasis.

But what's really disconcert-

ing is that, over the past couple of months, 30 and 40-year-olds have been banging on about the wonder of teenie-pop like it's the distilled DNA of the Beatles. "Its wonderful, ephemeral, disposable, Zeitgeist-bedding brilliance!" they rave. "The youthful energy! The sparkly costumes! Really, there is nothing better than wonderfully mindless pop music."

Well, of course there is, as



CAITLIN MORAN

these people well know. That's why they're not down the front at Wembley Arena with banners and whistles, screaming their little hearts out. That's why they're sitting at home with a whisky (rather than an alcopop), head-phones on, trying to

work out all the lyrics to the third REO Speedwagon album.

It's natural to feel suddenly creaky and halfway dead in

your thirties, but to fight back by willingly shedding half your brain cells, and getting into music that 12-year-olds "dig", won't help a bit. Twelve-year-olds grow out of teenie-pop by the age of 15, and start trying to find out who this Marc Bolan fella that everyone goes on about was. Thirty-year-olds will still be asking each other who their favourite Spice Girl is at the election after this one.

All this am-I-missing-the-point? fear was triggered by the original Old Spice, Kylie Minogue. Throughout her halcyon days with Stock,

Aitkin and Waterman, Kylie was thoroughly reviled as bimbo-pop for two-year-olds. One small fact, missed at the time, was that her name was on some of the best singles of the 1980s and early 1990s.

When, around 1994, credible pop stars such as Primal Scream, Manic Street Preachers and St Etienne admitted they fancied her and loved her records, the fear of God was put into a lot of elderly people. Up until then, teenie pop had always been uncool. Now things weren't as straightforward any more. Some teenie-pop was cool. Perhaps all

teenie-pop was cool. Maybe teenie-pop was cool if you fancied the person singing it.

And so the point was monumentally missed — teenie-pop is cool if it's good — and the horror of middle-aged men and women discussing Ronan from Boyzone's new haircut was upon us. All I can say is: for pity's sake, don't do it! Being adult is wonderful! Teenage girls spend every day wanting to be grown up, so they can go in pubs, drive cars and have sex with someone who lives further away than the next estate. If all they have to look forward to is conversations about boy-bands, they'll all start chain-smoking in the hopes it will stunt their growth and arrest their development. Cough. Cough cough.

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Rungy and dramatic, yet

JAZZ ALBUMS

precise and sensitive where necessary, this is big-band jazz at its best.

CLAIRE MARTIN

Make This City Ours (Linn AKD 066)
THE CITY in question is New York, where award-winning UK vocalist Claire Martin recorded this, her fifth Linn album and the first involving not only a producer, Joel E. Siegel, but also a rhythm section and an alto player, Antonio Hart, based in the jazz capital.

Martin's repertoire, however, is much as before, with standard material from the likes of Harold Arlen and Irving Berlin interspersed with snappily satirical songs, lovers' laments and the occasional original.

Her voice has not lost its ability to combine an almost chummy intimacy with technical assurance and mature poise, ensuring that the carefully chosen songs on this consistently entertaining album are delivered with Martin's customary mix of sensitivity and brio.

CHRIS PARKER

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Chance maps long route to short cut

Southall have been recalled to the Wales squad for the group seven World Cup qualifying tie against Belgium at the National Stadium on March 29. Anything less than victory is likely to eliminate Wales from the World Cup finals in France next year. Giggs and Southall missed the international match against Ireland in Cardiff last month, which was drawn 0-0. Giggs because of injury and Southall for "domestic reasons".



NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

Hotte's hopes were dealt a blow this week with the loss of Neil Allison, 23, his centre half. Allison, formerly down the road at Hull City, has been recruited by John Dun-

"I played as a right wing and was then switched to striker at Huddersfield," he said. "I am only 5ft 4in, so I was always being called 'the diminutive striker'. In fact, as I am quite well built, they

His contacts have helped him to recruit widely and turn a village side — "there are only 700 or 800 people here," he said — into one on the threshold of the UniBond League and Wembley

At Cheltenham

Chance, as low as anyone could be, when the same carelessness at the last fence cost him a precious second

upper lip and cried fit to burst beneath his glasses and Kim Bailey, who could have trained the winner, hugged the man who did. And repeating over and over to microphones: "It's great, it's great" because it was and because, for once, he could find nothing else to say.



FOR THE RECORD

Traditional Acol players would start with Three Clubs, and then support hearts. However, nowadays many players have the understanding that a jump shift always

queen. If it loses and North returns a club, rise with the ace and play a third club. If South wins you are laydown; if North wins and plays a spade, best is to win with the king and play ace and another diamond. If that doesn't set up a diamond trick, your last chance is the spade finesse.

was played in May 1989 in the Jubilee Room of the House of Commons as one of the thirty

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in

Colchester v Mansfield (7.45)
UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Rad-
cliffe v Great Harwood

RUGBY LEAGUE
Stones Super League
 Bradford v Warrington (7.30)

Kitzbühel 0 65 fair
(Best skiing above 1,650 metres)

varied slush cloud 4 6/3
i. snow forecast for weekend)

BANDOLINE
a. A bass mandoline
b. A cartridge belt
c. Hair grease

SUPEREROGATION
a. Excess
b. Rogation Sunday Advent
c. Cross-examination

Black to play. This position is from the game Gerber — Ye, Geneva 1997. Black has attained a superb attacking position. If you compare the relative activity of the black bishops and the white knights it is not surprising that Black has a quick kill. Can you see it?

RUGBY UNION

A International
France v Scotland
(at Rodez, 6.30) ..

Under-21 International
France v Scotland
(at Ales, 6.0) ..

STUDENT INTERNATIONAL: Welsh
Universities v English Universities (at
Cyncoed, Cardiff, 2.30)

ENLIR MATCHES: Aberystwyth v Bristol (7.0)

Cervinia	80	330	good
		(Shil)	generally good
Gailo	55	60	good
			(High winds limiting ski)
SWITZERLAND			
Montana	5	140	fair
			(Best skiing before noon)
Wengen	5	80	fair
			(Snowcover OK; above 1,700 n)

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain

trained slushy sun 8 27/2
d spring skiing)
eried slushy wind 0 3/3
g: snow mostly OK)
ring worn sun 10 27/2
spring snow off-plate)
eried closed cloud 9 6/3
etres: pistes well maintained)

1171

St Helens ready to reassert their claim to title deeds

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٥٥١ من الاصل

Milking the herd instinct at Upton Park

Waiting 26 minutes for the first goal can, of course, be pretty exciting sometimes. There can be heroics to watch: great passes, goalmouth scrambles, bookings, broken legs, all sorts. On Wednesday night at Upton Park, however, a sense of deliberate unreality pervaded both the pitch and the virtually silent stadium.

Had 24,500 people mistakenly bought tickets for a walk-through rehearsal of a future match? Had managerial pep-talks been experimentally banned? The crowd was subdued, the football (West Ham United v Chelsea) humdrum. It was odd, I can tell you, to pay £27 for a ticket and then derive excitement from dropping my pencil. Sometimes I pay nothing at all to do that at home.

"Mr Brian Moon is in the stadium," the Tannoy announced, carefully, during this period. Naturally, one's ears pricked up. Brian Moon, eh? Sounded like a security code — perhaps for a bomb, or an unstoppable gas leak. Women are alert to such personifications because our euphemisms for menstruation include "Auntie Flo has come to stay" and "The redcoats are on the march." This Brian Moon sounded interesting. But minutes

later came the crushing news — "Mr Brian Moon has left the stadium" — so even that tiny hope of extraneous interest was obliged to fade.

We needed a goal, we really did. West Ham, the more willing team, seemed lost in fog. Chelsea, meanwhile, without Leboeuf, Newton or Duberry, and with Di Matteo and Mark Hughes on the bench, were playing like an idling Ferrari held up on a country lane by a herd of cows. In fact, the only excellence visible on the pitch in this uncomfortable overture period was the grass itself. Most Premiership teams are playing on levelled muck and bullets at this stage in the season. What does it say about West Ham that their surface is hardly scratched? But then, finally, Chelsea scored. West Ham's Ian Bishop substituted a long ball straight to Zola. Whoops. "Try NOT pass ball ZOLA" was probably the first point listed on the blackboard in the West Ham dressing room that night, but in a lax moment Bishop had forgotten. Zola, barely pausing to say: "Now, I don't think you meant to do that," sped off, head down, deceived the goalkeeper's attention, then passed to a finely accelerating Vialli. "Watch out Z, esp when + V" was the second point on

Why do they play better on telly?

that blackboard, but who can remember complicated stuff like that when the chips are down? Well, the game came alive, thank goodness. More precisely, the fog lifted from West Ham. Unfortunately, Chelsea's own herd of Jersey milkers proved the more stubborn obstacle, continuing to moo, and amble, and defeat, on their fancy, bonnet until virtually the end of the match. Crucially, perhaps, the West Ham players were reminded that they had either a lot to gain (by winning), or a lot to lose (by losing), and were additionally warned by

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

Harry Redknapp, their manager, at half-time that he would blame them all personally if he ended up with the sack.

So they got stuck in and the crowd cheered up. They started the second half 1-0 down, scored a penalty (Dicks, 53min) and an excellent goal (Kitson, 68min) and discovered a surprising, not to say delusive, level of self-belief.

The blurry scoreboard, noticeably reluctant to show the scoreline while Chelsea were leading, was suddenly more than proud to be of service. "One-way traffic" is what they call it on telly when a match goes like that. It's one of the top six FA-approved metaphors.

Kitson was the hero of the night — just as Newcastle United are kicking themselves for letting him go, too. After Chelsea equalised in the 86th minute (a balleristic header by Mark Hughes from a heart-stopping, soaring ball by Scott Minto), the struggle seemed to be over, with Chelsea's dignity restored and West Ham's honour satisfied. However, Kitson scored a clincher in the 89th minute, and by that single act lifted West Ham out of the relegation zone for the first time in what felt like 75 years. It was not a glorious victory, but the way I look at it, if you have to queue

for 45 minutes for the Tube afterwards (with 24,499 people you would rather avoid), it's better to have five goals to think about than four.

We never did find out who Mr Brian Moon was, the manner of whose leaving was as mysterious (but evidently as important) as his arrival. But West Ham certainly had a little visitation on Wednesday night that transformed their game. Personally, I feel I may be a jinx on both of these London teams, having seen West Ham play badly at both Tottenham Hotspur and Sheffield Wednesday, and having been cruelly disappointed by Chelsea at both Blackburn Rovers and Nottingham Forest. Why do they always play so much better on the telly?

I have a theory, incidentally, that the sphinx-like Ruud Gullit should show more emotion on the touchline, to assure his players that he cares. I always feel sorry for them, hoping eagerly for approval and receiving none, like poor little Jane Eyre rebuffed for wanting a bit of a cuddle while at school. Why does he do this to them? Sang-froid can't be a Dutch thing, it's French. Gullit carries his emotions as gingerly as mercury on a tray and I can't help wishing someone would occasionally knock his arm.

Ruud Gullit should show more emotion

BOXING

Universities square up for bout of century

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THE boxing rivalry between Oxford and Cambridge Universities has endured a century with neither institution gaining the upper hand. Tonight at the Guild Hall, Cambridge, perhaps one side will squeeze home the victors of the first 100 years. The score stands at 43-43 with three draws, ten encounters being lost during two world wars.

The first fully recognised match between the teams was at Oxford in 1897, when the fixture also included fencing. In more recent times, the university clubs have survived despite lack of funds, falling membership and opposition from anti-boxing groups.

Throughout the 100 years, the match has only once been held outside the universities. In 1937, when the fixture was moved to the Stadium Club, Holborn, the same ring in which George Carpentier knocked out Bombardier Billy Wells in 1913 "in less time than it took the Prince of Wales to

put his coat under his seat," as a wit of the day put it.

Thanks to men such as Robert Nairac, who saved the Oxford club from disbandment in 1969, and the present two senior treasurers, Tim Fell at Oxford and Howard Raingold at Cambridge, who have brought in money from sponsors, boxing is enjoying a revival at both universities.

Last night the newly formed Oxford alumni association held its first dinner to celebrate the hundred years. Among the many stories that regaled the diners, one that caused much amusement dated from 1949. Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, on seeing the Cambridge middleweight, Jimmy Blatch, snap to attention when his name was called in the ring, remarked: "That's how I like to see them." Seconds later Reg Severn had knocked out the Cambridge man and an Oxford second, passing Montgomery on his way back to the dressing-



The Cambridge team from 1899 in the days when the fixture comprised both boxing and fencing contests

room, could not resist tapping the great man on the shoulder and saying: "And that's how we like to see them!"

Perhaps Cambridge will have the last laugh tonight by ending the Oxford run of 11 successive victories. Cambridge have been training hard to halt the Oxford advance and turned this year to the England boxing squad for inspiration. Recently they spent a weekend with the England party at Crystal Palace. "It sharpened us up tremendously," Dave Freeland, their captain, said.

While Oxford have only one Blue in Mike Pokrass at welterweight, Cambridge have two. Freeland, the captain, at featherweight, and Richard Platt, a lightweight.

Even though most of the students learn to throw their first punch in the university gym, the 40 or so members who stay on after the first freshers' arrival reach a standard that is not in any way inferior to that of the boxers of the 1940s and 1950s, who had several years of school and club experience.

Percy Lewis, the former Empire featherweight champion, who has been one of the coaches at Oxford for many years, said: "We teach them the ABC first — jab, the left lead and right cross. They seldom reach XYZ but by the time of the Varsity match they are certainly at MNOP."

Oxford and Cambridge have produced some outstanding boxers recently, such as Frank Copplestone, the Oxford light-heavyweight, and

Eliot Giuralarocca, the Oxford lightweight, though the pedigree of Cambridge's legendary John Hopley (1903) and Eddie Egan, the Rhodes scholar at Oxford (1923), has never been equalled.

It was said of Hopley's Cambridge team, who won every contest that year by knocking out their Oxford opponents, that they could have lifted the Amateur Boxing Association dais as well. Egan, who won the 1920 Olympic light-heavyweight gold medal for the United States, is best remembered for the spectacular achievement in 1923 of knocking out his Cambridge opponent, S. F. Meikle (light-heavyweight) and D. A. D. Simpson (heavyweight) one after another in the same ring on the same

night. Egan later became commissioner of the New York State Athletic Commission.

Oxford is a dynamic club and will be hard to beat. In the hands of Fell it has become probably the best-run university sports club in the country. It has sound finances, an excellent committee, five coaches, a publicity officer and does not have to rely on dinner shows to make money.

John Roycroft, the head of the department of sport at Ifley Road, said: "When you have an enthusiastic senior treasurer, the sport succeeds. The club is run in the professional, with a small p, manner, but with commitment with a capital C. At this rate it could go on thriving for another 100 years."

Belt drives Rhodes in title defence

RYAN RHODES will be attempting to win a Lonsdale Belt outright in record time when he defends his British light-middleweight title against Del Bryan, of Nottingham, at the Rivermead Leisure Centre, Reading, tonight (Srikumar Sen writes).

This is Rhodes's second defence and if he is successful the belt will automatically become his; the record of 95 days, which is held by Michael Eyles, of Tooting, would be broken by five days.

Rhodes should have no trouble beating Bryan. The Sheffield man already has a points win over the challenger. Even though the margin in that six-round encounter last September was only half a point, Rhodes believes that Bryan will not be able to stand up to him this time.

According to the champion, the scoring did not truly reflect the bout and he intends to underline his superiority by stopping Bryan this time. "Since then I have matured. I will knock him out," Rhodes said.

He certainly looked impressive when he dispatched Peter Waudby, of Hull, in one round 18 days ago. Bryan, 30, is a former British welterweight champion but he is beginning to look battle-wary.



Graham Greenway coaches Freeland, of Cambridge

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

ALOPECIA

(b) Baldness. Such pompous medical terms for a simple condition can be properly used in lay conversation. "My husband's alopecia is very bad this morning. I am afraid, Mr Merryweather. So I am afraid that I cannot get to the office before about 11.30."

GLASSITES

(c) Batty sectarians, also known as Sandemanians. They believed that justifying faith is no more than a simple assent (assent?) to the divine testimony passively received by the understanding. Before you scream "Meaningless Rubbish!", remind yourself that Michael Faraday was one of their number.

BANDOLINE

(d) A strong-smelling pungent for the hair: much like the famous Honey and Flowers mixture. Alleged to be made from boiled quince pips. This seems intrinsically implausible and black propaganda by Messrs Truefitt & Hill. Why quince pips? "Hooyay! Why Henry, that Bandoline of yours makes its presence felt right across the square and above the atmosphere of the Pernod and Polecat Pizzeria Parlour."

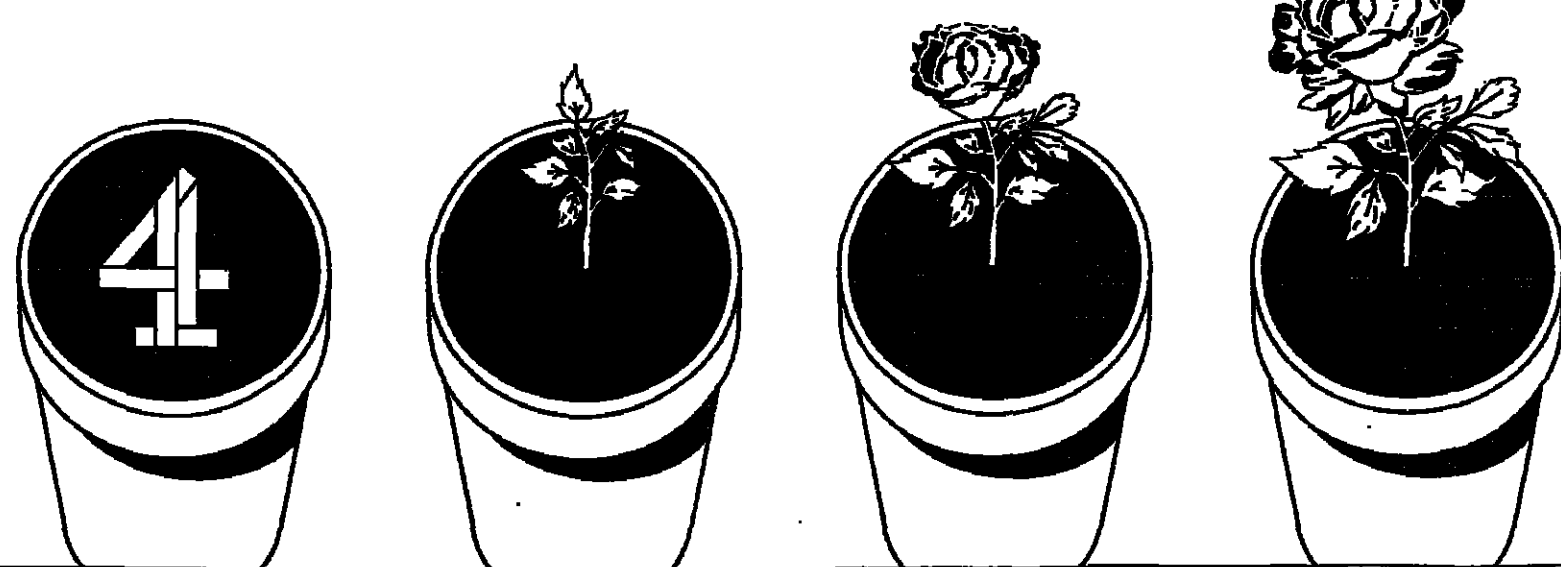
SUPEREROGATION

(a) Superfluity. Something over and above what is needed. Works of supererogation are good deeds over and above the call of duty.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Bxb2! 2 Kxb2 Qf6+ and White collapses.

The Lost Gardens of Heligan: Tonight 8.00



RADIO CHOICE

A slings and arrows life

Messages to Myself. Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

You couldn't exactly describe as bliss the 60 years Margaret Wheeler (still living) was married to Charles (deceased). Extracts from her diaries, read by Elaine Claxton, reveal that he expected her to do nothing but household chores. He derided her six-year-old correspondence with George Bernard Shaw, calling him "ga-ga" and "old bugwhiskers". When she tried her hand at pottery, he said one "old bugwhiskers". When she tried her hand at pottery, he said one "old bugwhiskers". When she tried her hand at pottery, he said one "old bugwhiskers".

Kaleidoscope Feature: The Curse of the Cassette. Radio 4, 9.30pm. More a damned nuisance than a curse, actually, I recognise the problems: cassettes on which I had forgotten to write a label, accidentally wiping out something, not being able to find the exact bit I want to play. Even cassette addicts like Tony Benn, whose recorded diaries run to more than 200 million words, admit to coming to grief sometimes. If it's even more statistics you want, here are some eye-openers: two billion blank cassettes sold every year, one billion pre-recorded tapes, six billion pirated copies. Luckily, Nick Baker's Kaleidoscope Feature is not too technical. Peter Daville.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Wiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsweek 7.00 Pete Tong: Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle 12.00 Comic Relief Live from the Ministry of Sound 9.00am Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Paths of Inspiration (2/5) 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night: A live concert from Leeds Town Hall featuring the BBC Concerto Orchestra under Martin Yates 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 Joan Bakewell 12.05am Sue McGarry

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mer 2.00pm Race on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Alan Green's Sportsbook 8.30 Friday Sport Robin Bailey on the start of the 1997 Super League season as Bradford Bulls take on Warrington Wolves. Plus the rest of the weekend's sport 10.00 Paper Talk Brian Alexander and Nick Higham review the top news and sport stories in this week's press 11.00 News Extra with David McNeil 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Richard Daly, including at 3.45 Entertainment News

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy War 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chesham 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Driveins with Peter Dinkley 7.00 Muz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, includes Mendelssohn (Symphony No 7); Coppen (Ritornello); Alfvén (Swedish Rhapsody No 3); Smetana (Symphony in G, Op 13 No 4); Kodály (Sonatina No 2); Malcolm Arnold (Sussex Overture); Falla (Canción); Verdi (La Traviata); Bach (Sonata for Harp) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobsby, Haydn (Te Deum in C); Bach (French Suite No 5 in G); Handel (Concerto Grosso in B flat, Op 6 No 7); Sibelius (Tapiola) 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Fiona Tallentire. Includes Glazunov (Finnish Fantasia); Garbarek (He Comes from the North); Lutoslawski (Funeral Music); Gade (Overture: Gjerkvang of Oseana); Poulenc (Concerto for two pianos); Reynolds (Rhapsody) 12.00 Composers of the Week: Campora, Clerambault and Montclair 1.00pm News: Chamber Music from Manchester. Introduced by Rodney Staddon. Montclair (Bach); Campora (Valse Nobles et Sentimentales); Granados (Oyeas O la Maye y el Rusenor); Goyescas; Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit) 2.00 Mozart. Ballet music: Idomeneo. Performed by the Prague Chamber Orchestra under Bratislav Novotny 2.15 Music Restores: Women in Early Music (3/4) 3.00 Mining the Archive: Gordon Slessor introduces performances by Imgard

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Power for the Day 6.30 Today, includes Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. The explorer and travel writer Redmond O'Hanlon on O'Hanlon 9.45 Feedback, with Chris Dunkley 10.00 News: Messages to Myself (FM). See Choice of 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray 11.30 The Natural History Programme Presented by Joanna Pincock 12.00 News: You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm Food Programme with Derek Cooper 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 Classic Serial: The Barchester Chronicles, by Anthony Trollope. With Rosemary Leach and John Carls (2/3) (1) 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow reads Patricia Cornwell's latest novel: Home's Nest, and does an exhibition of Egyptian paintings 4.45 Short Story: Easy Money, by Fred Davis. Read by Kathryn Hunt (1) 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News

FREQUENCY GUIDE

RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 158 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 158. MW 1197. 1215. TALK RADIO. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 100-102. MW 1033. 1089. Television. FM Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManus.

Living off the land? I'm not wild about it

This being the middle of March, the sap is rising. Therefore the first thing I must do this morning is pass on some urgent instructions, in the event that you are reading this while walking through a wood carrying a brace and bit, a length of plastic hose and a plastic container and you are suddenly taken with the desire for a glass of wine.

See that birch tree over there? Stacing the bit firmly in the brace, drill a hole in the tree to a depth of an inch or so. Withdraw the bit and wait. Sap will shortly start to seep, so join one end of the hose in the hole and the other end in the container. Wait two days, you will have enough sap to mix in some fermenting material (sorry, can't help you there) and you will soon have wine of a quality fit to bring the trading standards people round at a gallop.

I know all this because I

watched *A Cook on the Wild Side* (Channel 4) last night. I also know how to catch a hare: you get a long net and stake it to posts, then get beaters to drive the hare into the net. Once it is caught, skin the hare, simmer for three hours in wine and herbs, thicken sauce with hare's blood. I can also catch freshwater crayfish (steam for five minutes in boiling water) using as bait the carcass of a chicken.

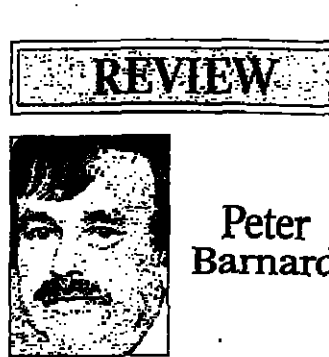
That last bit was worrying: is there some method of catching chickens involving a lasso made from bindweed, or should we buy a chicken from Sainsbury's, rip off all the flesh and throw the carcass in a river on the end of a string? Modern living poses terrible dilemmas.

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's series, back for another run, is about food foraging, this time on the inland waterways, with F.W. based aboard his river cruiser. The boat itself, painted to resemble a

Dulux colour chart, is not universally admired: "Bit like a glass-fibre lunchbox, innit?" says a man probably rendered grumpy by the realisation that he was born too late for *What's My Line?* ("lives off canal scrap").

Fearnley-Whittingstall is never grumpy and his programmes are highly entertaining, but it is slightly odd that television, which would become a redundant medium if we took up all the tempting activities it offers us, should be quite so keen to show us the hard way to do everything.

Ray Meeks, survival's ultimate survivor, has a series on BBC2 in which he visits the sort of people for whom fishing with a chicken would be a mere bagatelle: they first have to dig through six feet of ice to reach the water. And even Jeremy Clarkson, chief motormouth, could not resist going to Iceland to show us that



Peter Barnard

the way to reinflate a flat tyre is not to call Kwik-Fit but to spray lighter fuel inside the tyre and set fire to it.

These programmes warm the heart in that they show us people who retain the skill to use natural occurring resources. I am glad such people exist, but will resist joining them. And our stretched, public services need modern applications to this inventiveness: where is the man who can rub two

sheet-metal workers together to create a fire engine?

If all of this reaching for nature is part of our compulsion to explore the past, *Horizon: Shipwreck* (BBC2) at least demonstrated that there is a link between a lump of wood dumped on the seabed 400 years ago and computer-aided design. This was a fascinating detective story about a ship wrecked off Alderney in the Channel Islands in the 16th century.

There are at least 100 wrecks in the area and when bits of this or that first appeared in fishing nets no one saw much significance. But gradually the impression grew that the ship may be special, may indeed be the first English vessel of the time to be recovered from home waters. The key clue lay in the rudder.

Ships of that ilk were built without benefit of physics but they nonetheless were measured on very precise ratios. Therefore rais-

ing the rudder and measuring it meant that all the ship's proportions—length of keel, beam and so on—could be calculated, enabling a computer projection of the ship itself. It was not the ship that the archaeologist Michael Bowyer hoped it might be, a pinnacle built at Limehouse in 1586, and indeed the detective work continues. But analysis of a timber gun port cover proved that the wood was cut in 1575 and that it was British.

I hope that my enjoyment of *Surely Some Mistake* (BBC2), the series on corporate *faux pas* which ended last night, does not reflect the usual British glee at the sight of a business person doing something daft. Each half-hour programme dealt with three examples when in many cases one would have easily absorbed all the time available, but that is my only reservation.

The highlight last night was

Benetton and its creative director, Oliviero Toscani. Benetton is, of course, the Italian company that makes what Ian Hislop calls "over-priced pullovers", and Toscani is responsible for the company's most controversial advertisements, which included an AIDS victim on his deathbed (banned in Britain) and a newborn child (withdrawn after protests).

For the latter, Toscani went to a maternity hospital and took the photographs himself: "One woman asked me, 'how much do I owe you?' 'Toscani is now pursuing a gentler line: 'It's time to do some reflection.' But did these advertisements, which struck me as merely daft and pretentious, constitute a business mistake, given that the controversy provided Benetton with enormous exposure? I cannot conjure a Benetton balance sheet out of squid's ink and a piece of timber beaten to a pulp, so I don't know.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (15443)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (10801)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (7) (5114714)
- 9.20 Style Challenge (4461191)
- 9.45 Kilroy (4141356)
- 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (82191)
- 11.00 News (7) and weather (6187153)
- 11.05 The Really Useful Show (779882)
- 11.35 Change That (8354714)
- 12.00 News (7) and weather (7211882)
- 12.05pm The Alphabet Game (525085)
- 12.30 Going for a Song (6522153)
- 12.35 The Weather Show (77983917)
- 1.00 News (7) and weather (20288)
- 1.30 Regional News (83363482)
- 1.40 Neighbours (7) (11667269)
- 2.05 For the Love of Aaron (1994) with Meredith Baker and Nick Mancuso. A struggling author goes through a creative and financial rough patch. Directed by John Kent Harrison (7448627)
- 3.30 Playdays (5129998) 3.30 The Red Nose Zone. Comedy sketches, games and competitions—all in the name of charity (5889686) 5.05 Newsround (7) (5659375)
- 5.10 Blue Peter (7) (2614379)
- 5.35 Neighbours (7) (7) (903917)
- 6.00 News (7) and weather (795)
- 6.30 Newsround South East (375)
- 7.00 Comic Relief Lenny Henry. Kicks off an evening of entertainment in aid of charities both at home and abroad. Susan Solesbury reports on the hardships faced by street children in Tarns (5191)
- 8.00 Dame Edna Makes the Nation See Red. The megastar presents *Coronation Street* stars on *University Challenge*. Father Clifford of Ballykissangel meets The Vicar of Dibley, and the Spice Girls. Victoria Wood looks at caring for sick relatives 24 hours a day (1511)
- 9.00 News (7) and weather (7801)
- 9.30 Comic Relief: French and Saunders. Featuring Reddy Dawn and Jennifer keep the ball rolling with *Mr. Behaving Badly* and *Boyz n the City*. Julia Walters reports from Addis Ababa (146820)
- 10.15 Rosie, Rhys, Enfield and Chums in Prime Cracker. Fitz and Detective Jane Tennison join forces: Tony Farnio performs a duet with Björk; Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse provide comic interludes (286172)
- 11.00 Father Ted and His Faithful Friends. Unhappy Fathers Ted and Douglas bless the proceedings with their presence (9346)
- 11.30 The Empire Strikes Back. Live. Comedy and music from the Liverpool Bush Empire, with Steve Coogan, Bill Bailey, Suggs, Art Garfunkel, The Spice Girls and the Sugar Lumps, comprising Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders, Kathy Burke, Llewella Gideon and Lulu (38005)
- 12.00am Bedtime with Ben Ben Elton with the final selection of sketches. Plus, the phone helpline total is announced (32486)
- 1.00 Comic Relief: The Beginning. The early-1990s show (30912)
- 2.30 Billy Connolly's Return to Nose and Beak (7) (4132221)
- 3.20 Weather (73471812)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes. The numbers next to TV programme listings are Video PlusCodes, numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder to automatically find a VideoPlus+ "handset". Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

- 6.00am Open University (7140714) 6.25 Forest Futures (7) (7714086) 7.15 News (7) (703226) 7.30 The Wacky Races (7) (817511) 7.35 The Really Useful Show (7) (3297085) 8.20 Just So Stories (7686462) 8.35 The Record (5880269) 9.00 The French Experience (5121004) 9.15 The Biology Collection (605795) 9.45 Watch (7905627) 10.00 Playdays (72153) 10.30 Hotch Potch House (2219269) 10.50 Cosmo and Dibs in Punjab and English (5176530) 11.00 Look and Read (911608) 11.20 Short Circuit (9002356) 11.40 English Time (9973530) 12.00 English Film (51085) 12.30pm Working Lunch (88627)
- 1.00 Scene: Skinny Marink. Comedy from Howard Schuman (11530)
- 1.30 Le Club (8336256) 1.45 Words and Pictures (8334051) 2.00 Just So Stories (7) (8897240) 2.10 Sport on Friday (278172) 3.55 News (7) (5574240) 4.00 Today's Day (288) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (172) 5.00 Esther (7) (8172)
- 5.30 Seniors Pot Black. David Vine introduces the final of the inaugural competition (424)
- 6.00 The Simpsons. Bart dies and goes to Hell (7) (133004)
- 6.25 Top of the Pops (7) (277801)
- 7.00 Pole to Pole: Shifting Sands. Michael Palin crosses Sudan from the Nubian Desert in the north to the war-torn south (7) (773820)
- 7.50 A Week to Remember (b/w) (393004)
- 8.00 Birding with Bill Oddie. Who goes on an autumn journey along England's East Coast (7) (4356)
- 8.30 Gardeners' World. Stephen Lacey visits Durham Massey, a newly restored National Trust garden (7) (8191)
- 9.00 Comic Relief Goes to the Movies. Stephen Fry, Jo Brand and Mark Lomas are among celebrities choosing clips from their favourite films (7) (5443)
- 9.30 Timeswatch: Haig—The Unknown Soldier. Was Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig really responsible for sending thousands of young men to their deaths at the Somme? (7) (876559)
- 10.00 Lucinda Lamborn's Alphabet of Britain (7) (7) (793849)
- 10.20 Video Nation Shots (548545)
- 10.30 Newsnight (7) (241269)
- 11.15 Space: Above and Beyond. West recalls a brutal battle (219820)
- 12.00m The White Rabbit. Guests include Jonny Lee Miller, Tom Mullica and Noel Britten (53467)
- 12.30am-2.00 The Lover and His Lass (1975). Risky comedy about a succession of jobs and girlfriends. Directed by Lasse Hallstrom, in Swedish with English subtitles (78009)

Stephen Fry's favourites (9pm)

CHOICE

- Scene: Skinny Marink. Comedy from Howard Schuman (11530)
- Once again you have to be impressed at the quality of the talent gathered for a school drama. The writer is Howard Schuman, of *Rock Follies*, *Selling Hitler* and a prize-winning comedy film called *Young Jackson*. The cast includes Phyllis Logan, Philip Jackson and Roy Hudd, and teenage actors who are less known but no less good. One of them, Christopher Miles, plays Andy, the teenager at the heart of the story. He is a self-doubting young man, somewhat by-forgotten, and his father's illness. Schuman draws on his Polish background for the *Skinny Marink* of the title, a twisted clay figure which acts as Andy's alter ego and represents his anxieties. It is an intelligent and thoughtful piece which would not be out of place in the adult schedules.
- Comic Relief. BBC1, 7.00pm. If you have ever thought what a wheeze it would be to send Stephen Tompkinson's Father Peter from Ballykissangel to the village of Dibley, with Dawn French's vicar moving in the opposite direction, then think no longer. It happens tonight, during six hours of fundraising entertainment interrupted only by the news. Or how about an alternative *Spice Girls* featuring French and Saunders, Kathy Burke and Lulu? Boyzone and the real *Spice Girls* are also on parade, together with lots of comedy performers doing lots of silly things. Lenny Henry, Dame Edna, the ubiquitous F and S, Jonathan Ross and the *Father Ted* stars take turns to host the evening, which is in aid of charity projects in Africa and Britain. The fare is better than that served up for Children in Need and the cause no less worthy.
- Birding with Bill Oddie. East Coast. BBC2, 8.00pm. The magic of birding, Bill Oddie reckons, can be summed up in one word: migration. To pursue this theme he travels down the coast of Britain, from the Farnes Islands in Northumberland, by way of Flamborough Head and Bridlington in Yorkshire, to north Norfolk. All the while his binoculars are trained on birds of passage who are making Britain their temporary home. They may have come from the Arctic and be heading for Africa, so British birdwatchers have to know when and where to spot them. To Oddie's credit he does not pretend that birding is unmitigated fun. He braves the prospect of seasickness in joint fellow enthusiasts on a North Sea boat trip. The waters stay calm, thus saving us any unsavoury footage, but the birds, despite being tempted by a smelly mix of vegetable oil and fish guts, refuse to show.
- The Lost Gardens of Heligan. Channel 4, 8.00pm. This is not the first television documentary about the biggest garden restoration in Europe. This one, and the next, give the continuing nature of the project, should it be the last. But a six-part series promises the most detailed account so far. As Heligan attracts 200,000 visitors a year, many will know the story but for newcomers it goes like this. The gardens in Cornwall were developed from the middle of the 18th century to the start of this one. Then came the First World War and half the garden staff died on the Western Front. The expertise went with them and for 70 years Heligan "went to sleep", becoming a wilderness hidden under laurel and brambles. The restoration started in 1994, by Tim Smith, a music producer, and John Nelson, a local builder. Then and now comparisons reveal the scale of the task. Peter Waymark.

CHOICE

- 6.00am GMTV (5518530)
- 9.25 Chain Letters (4448882)
- 9.55 Regional News (7) (5245269)
- 10.00 The Time, the Place (96397)
- 10.30 This Morning (7) (72965058)
- 12.00pm Regional News (7226714)
- 12.30 News (7) and weather (6557849)
- 12.55 Wish You Were Here? (6525240) 1.25 Home and Away (7) (4747356) 1.50 14 Weddings and a Divine (7) (582088)
- 2.50 Gal a Life (588288)
- 3.20 News (7) (6907135)
- 3.25 Regional News (7) (6357676)
- 3.30 Route and Jim (4167725) 3.40 Slim Pig (5881998) 3.50 Cartoon Time (967036)
- 4.00 Zzzap! (2436227) 4.15 Jumanji (7) (112627) 4.40 Gladiators: Train 2 Win (7) (4058462)
- 5.10 A Country Practice (5395443)
- 5.40 News (7) and weather (146795)
- 6.00 Home and Away (7) (1205330)
- 6.25 HTV Weather (7) (476356)
- 6.30 HTV News (443)
- 7.00 Lucky Numbers (7) (5462)
- 7.30 Coronation Street. Ken Barlow, at set to defend himself, is given a warning place of new by the school governors (7) (827)
- 8.00 The Bill. Catherine Cookson's the Moth in the final part, Stanley Thorman decides to sell the estate, tragedy strikes the Bradley household and Robert, angry at the resentful Dave Walters further with his gifts for the Thorman sisters (7) (8443)
- 10.00 News (7) and weather (49240)
- 10.30 HTV News (7) and weather (625337)
- 10.40 The Bill. The first in a four-part behind the scenes look at the Swallow hotel in Bristol Tonight, a visit by the Prime Minister adds to the daily pressure on the kitchen and housekeeping staff (511530)
- 11.10 At the Albert. Andy Sheppard's Quartet—Moving Image. Miles Kingston presents the first in a series of concerts recorded in Bristol (633612)
- 12.15am Judy Horowitz Reports (3583863)
- 12.25 Furry Bunker (8417554)
- 1.25 Club Night (4811776)
- 2.25 Shift (4956738)
- 3.25 Movie Club (7) (38543660)
- 3.55 Dear Nick (7) (8741486)
- 4.50 Sound Bites (3475537)
- 5.00 Coronation Street (7) (7) (58115)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News

CHOICE

- As HTV West except: 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6525240) 1.50 Savannah (8264004) 2.50-3.20 Our House (588288) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5395443) 6.25-7.00 Central News (271627) 10.40 Central Weekend Live (3975337) 12.10am Weekly World News (3756919) 12.35 Funky Bunker (5979134) 1.35 Baywatch (3590863) 2.30 Cyber Cafe (88399) 3.00 Collins and Macdonald's Movie Club (3840573) 3.25 Defeating the Enemy (2429660) 4.20 Central Jobfinder '97 (612221)
- As HTV West except: 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6525240) 1.50 Savannah (8264004) 2.50-3.20 Serve You Right (588288) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5395443) 6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (83172) 10.40 Conspiracy of Silence (94749248) 4.50am Soundbites (3475537)
- As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7229801) 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6525240) 1.50 Savannah (8264004) 2.50-3.20 Dogs with Dunbar (588288) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5395443) 6.23 Anglia Weather (477085) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (271627) 10.29 Anglia Air Watch (543379) 10.40 Conspiracy of Silence (94749248)
- Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (47563) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (50581) 9.00 Bewitched (50581) 9.30 The Yellow (50581) 10.00 Collectors' Lot (48153) 12.30pm: 1.00 The Bill (13988) 1.30 Film: Bonnie Prince Charlie (73414172) 3.45 Travelogue Treks (1717004) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (356) 4.30 Shop Till You Drop (240) 5.00 5 Pump (240) 5.30 Countdown (15203) 6.30 Newydd (112646) 6.05 Hero (18968) 6.35 Jinxed (45364) 7.00 Paddy's Day (874260) 7.25 Y Sine Gail (376066) 8.00 Pencilwhirl: Medl—Hydref (9424) 8.30 Newydd (8559) 9.00 Turning World (4085) 10.00 Brookside (47882) 10.30 Countrywide Undercover (58530) 11.00 Here's Johnny (502288) 11.35 The Giltie Show (55317) 12.00am: 1.00 The Bill (13988) 1.30 Film: Reflections in a Golden Eye (841028) 3.40 Film: X, Y and Zee (114028)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00am Sesame Street (47563) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (50581) 9.00 Bewitched (7) (68917)
- 9.30 Schools (665627)
- 12.00 Bloom (7) (46153)
- 12.30pm Baby It's You. How a baby transforms itself into a walking, talking, thinking human being (1/6) (7) (73795) 1.00 Ellen. The book shop faces financial difficulties (7) (3398) 1.30 Cafe Bar. Animation (48732207)
- 1.35 Tarek Tahiri (1962) with John Miles, James Mason, Herbert Lord and Roy Kinnear. Two British Army officers still locked in a class battle after the Second World War has ended. Directed by Ted Kotcheff (7) (19292827)
- 3.30 Travelling Light. Tim Grundy and Peter Hamilton visit the border towns of south-east Scotland (7) (849)
- 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (7) (356) 4.30 Countdown (7) (240) 5.00 Rick Lake (7) (3240) 5.30 Pet Rescue. An update on TC and Fritz, two cats who have been rehomed together (7) (820)
- 6.00 TFI Friday. With Chris Evans and guest David Baddiel (81714)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News. Includes headlines and weather at 7.30 (7) (490085)
- 7.55 The Slot (396191)
- 8.00 The Lost Gardens of Heligan. The first of a six-part series charting the restoration of the 157-acre Cornish gardens after 75 years of neglect (7) (9424)
- 8.30 Brookside. Jimmy says goodbye to his son and discovers what Jackie has been keeping a secret. After the recent accusations do Bel and Ollie have a future together? (7) (8556)
- 9.00 Edward Scissorhands (1990). Superior romantic fantasy with Johnny Depp and Winona Ryder. A man-made boy, who has sharp metal shears for hands, faces up to the curiosity of the outside world. Directed by Tim Burton (7) (4608)
- 11.00 Here's Johnny. Chat show presented by Johnny Vaughan (57) (526288)
- 11.35 The Giltie Show. Tonight's guests include the ubiquitous Spice Girls (55317)
- 12.05am TFI Friday (7) (841064)
- 1.05 Robin Animated adventures (3247047)
- 1.10 Flava Soul, reggae and jungle music (567) (9730047)
- 1.40 Reflections in a Golden Eye (1967) with Marion Brand, Elizabeth Taylor and Brian Keith. A drama set in the Deep South about a martinet army major who is forced to face his latent homosexuality. Directed by John Huston (7) (841028)
- 3.40 X, Y and Zee (1971) with Elizabeth Hurley, Michael Caine and Susanah York. A man in a volatile marriage falls for a young widow. Directed by Brian G. Hutton (114028). Ends at 5.35

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The dovecot at Heligan (8pm)

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

- 6.00am Morning Glory (247379) 6.00 Rags and Kicks. Live (65714) 10.00 Another World (4882) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 12.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 1.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 2.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 3.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 4.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 5.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 6.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 7.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 8.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 9.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 10.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 12.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 1.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 2.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 3.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 4.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 5.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 6.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 7.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 8.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 9.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 10.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 12.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 1.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 2.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 3.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 4.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 5.00 Days of Our Lives (4882) 6.00 Days of Our Lives 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RUGBY LEAGUE 44

Bradford to give
Super League
flying start

SPORT

FRIDAY MARCH 14 1997

BOXING 46

Cambridge meet
Oxford in
landmark contest

McCoy completes famous double with inspired run at Cheltenham

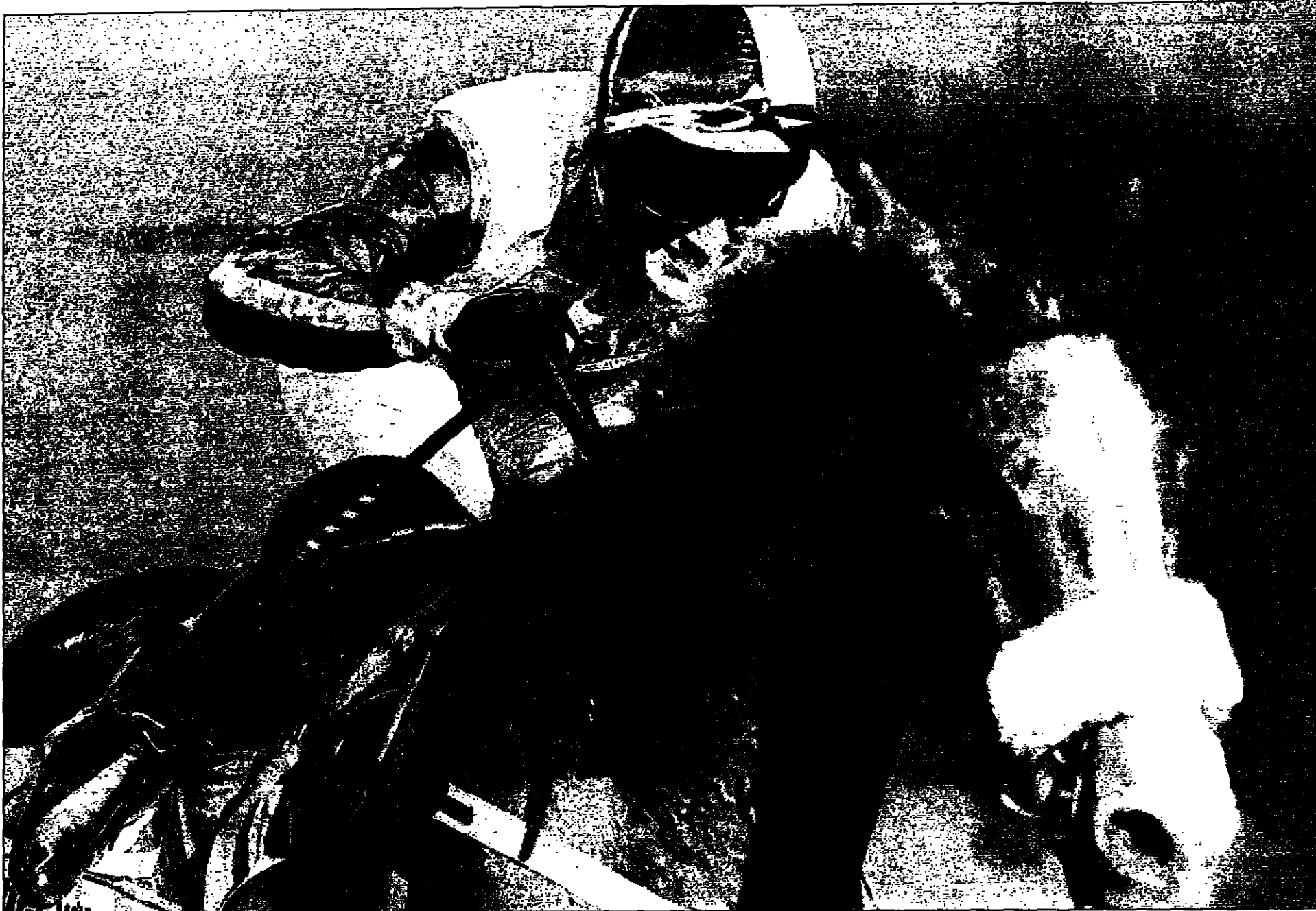
Mr Mulligan digs deep for gold

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE inspired brilliance of Tony McCoy yesterday enabled Mr Mulligan to complete one of the great sporting comebacks when he landed the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup at 20-1.

Little more than a month ago, the nine-year-old chaser was confined to his box, battered and bruised after a bone-crunching fall at Kempton Park on Boxing Day, while his young rider was nursing a fractured shoulder, sustained while riding at Wincanton. Looking on in despair was the horse's trainer, Noel Chance.

Even when a team of physiotherapists nursed horse and jockey back to fitness, a crucial racecourse gallop at Newbury 11 days ago left witnesses wondering if Mr Mulligan would be better suited to pulling a milk cart than running in jump racing's most



McCoy and Mr Mulligan sprint up the hill at Cheltenham yesterday to record a famous victory for the underdog in the Gold Cup. Photograph: Marc Aspland



prestigious race. "If he had run in a race that day, he would have finished two furlongs behind the rest. I was very disappointed," McCoy said. Chance felt "suicidal".

And yet at Prestbury Park yesterday the leaden feet of Mr Mulligan were no more. The old zest and enthusiasm, which made him one of the most feared novices a year earlier, had returned as he tracked the front-running Dublin Flyer for the first circuit.

The defining moment of the race came as the 14 runners went out into the country for a second time. Dublin Flyer's suspect stamina gave way far earlier than anyone feared and Mr Mulligan put in a spring-heeled leap to the lead ahead of the thirteen of the 21 fences.

"When we went down the hill on the far side, I really wound him up for three or four fences down there," McCoy recalled. "He took off from wherever I wanted him to. I missed the fence at the top of the hill a little bit and I thought I might have hit it too hard, but as soon as we met the downhill run I gave him a smack and the way he picked up I knew it was going to take a good one to get past him."

Had the champion jockey possessed a set of wing mirrors, his confidence would have vanished. The enigmatic One Man, deliberately held up at the rear of the field by Richard Dunwoody, was beginning to cruise past struggling rivals. Turning for home, Dunwoody eased the

Gordon Richards-trained grey into second spot and, after the penultimate fence, he represented an ominous threat. Suddenly, in a matter of three of four strides, the challenge went from overdrive to neutral, a carbon-copy of 12 months earlier. With Mr Mulligan now pulling away in front, it was left to Barton Bank to win the battle for second place ahead of Dorans Pride. Imperial Call was pulled up and Danoli fell.

While Mr Mulligan earned his place in Cheltenham history, the victory provided McCoy with another milestone in his meteoric career. At the age

of 22, he joins a distinguished roll-call of jockeys to have won a Champion Hurdle-Gold Cup double during a Festival. Incredibly, McCoy is in only his third full season as a jockey in Britain. In his first year he ended up leading conditional rider, with 74 winners; last term, he was crowned champion jockey after riding 175 winners and

his success yesterday took his tally for the season to 143, more than 40 ahead of his nearest rival, despite a month off with injury. All that remains is for him to join Richard Dunwoody and Frankie Dettori as household names. After taking Cheltenham by storm this week, the wait is all but over.

If McCoy is becoming used to garnering jump racing's most coveted races, it is a new experience for Chance. After spending five years learning his craft in Australia, he returned to his native land. "It took me 20 years to train 100 winners, but in Ireland it is so

competitive. It is very unequal, the big five or six trainers have 75 per cent of the horses. You have fellows like me ducking and diving — and trying to back them on the right day."

His break came when Michael Worcester, a businessman from near Bristol with a passion for racing, asked Chance two years ago to come to Lambourn as the private trainer of his horses.

Worcester was alerted to Mr Mulligan after Trevor Sainting, a vet from Trovynon, noted the unlikelyst of Gold Cup winners on the Irish point-to-point circuit. "Louise Cooper, who is a spotter for us,

said to me: 'Buy this horse. Don't come and look at him as you'll hate him. Just send me the cheque.' The £18,000 Worcester splashed out on the blind purchase proved to be the investment of a lifetime.

Punters definitely came off worst in the never-ending battle waged with bookmakers during the three-day meeting. The only bonus is that the Tote jackpot was not won and a pool of £228,233 carried forward to Folkestone this afternoon is likely to double before racing gets under way.

Andrew Longmore, page 42
Racing, page 43

Waddle later referred to a gentlemen's agreement, rather than a written clause allowing him to leave. "I always thought that your word was your word," he said. "I will continue to play for Bradford for the rest of the season, but I am very disappointed."

Bassett said that the misunderstanding would not hinder the proposed £350,000 move of Jason Lee, the striker who achieved notoriety last season for his "pineapple" haircut and poor finishing from Forest to Bradford.

Aston Villa have denied reports of a second bid for Stan Collymore, but remain the favourites to sign the troubled Liverpool striker during the close season.

Merson out, page 43

Bradford
put brake
on Waddle's
free ride
to the top

BY RICHARD HOBSON

THE proposed return of Chris Waddle to the FA-Caring Premiership with Nottingham Forest stalled yesterday amid confusion over a supposed clause in his contract with Bradford City.

Dave Bassett, the Forest general manager, had been informed of Waddle's apparent availability on a free transfer on Wednesday evening by Irving Scholar, the Forest football consultant, who had spoken with Mel Stein, Waddle's agent.

Forest intended to make an announcement after unveiling Ian Moore, their £1 million signing from Tranmere Rovers, at an afternoon press conference yesterday. Waddle, meanwhile, had broken off from an engagement at a sports shop in Leeds to tell a radio reporter that he was looking forward to a return to the top flight, having left Sheffield Wednesday at the end of last season.

However, Bradford scuppered those plans when they contacted Forest to deny the existence of the clause, which allegedly allowed Waddle to move free of charge if approached by a Premiership club. They insisted that Waddle would remain with them as they seek to avoid relegation from the Nationwide League first division.

Bassett said that Forest would not pay a fee for Waddle. "We were interested when we thought it was a free, but unfortunately, we have been misled," he said.

Waddle later referred to a gentlemen's agreement, rather than a written clause allowing him to leave. "I always thought that your word was your word," he said. "I will continue to play for Bradford for the rest of the season, but I am very disappointed."

Bassett said that the misunderstanding would not hinder the proposed £350,000 move of Jason Lee, the striker who achieved notoriety last season for his "pineapple" haircut and poor finishing from Forest to Bradford.

Aston Villa have denied reports of a second bid for Stan Collymore, but remain the favourites to sign the troubled Liverpool striker during the close season.

Merson out, page 43

RESULT

1 MR MULLIGAN 20-1
2 Barton Bank 33-1
3 Dorans Pride 10-1

of 22, he joins a distinguished roll-call of jockeys to have won a Champion Hurdle-Gold Cup double during a Festival. Incredibly, McCoy is in only his third full season as a jockey in Britain. In his first year he ended up leading conditional rider, with 74 winners; last term, he was crowned champion jockey after riding 175 winners and

Graveney signs for two years

BY SIMON WILDE

ENGLAND have revealed their selectorial hand. Now all they have to do is find a team to beat the Australians this summer. David Graveney, as expected, was yesterday named the new chairman of selectors and he is joined on the panel by Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, two former England captains retired from the international arena but still very much involved with the county game.

Graveney, who was chosen by the six core members of the England management committee, chaired by Bob Bennett, has been appointed for two years on an undisclosed salary plus expenses. Gooch, who became a selector last year, has been appointed for a further two years, Gatting, who is new to the job, for one. They will receive expenses only.

They will possibly be joined on the panel by the captain, whose appointment will be long delayed. If it is not Michael Atherton it will be a considerable surprise, but

whether he will have voting rights remains to be decided. There is a growing feeling that those closest to the players should not be seen to sit in judgment on them. The coach, at present David Lloyd, does not wield a vote in home matches.

Gatting and Gooch, as the latter did last year, will probably prefer to assess England candidates from the middle rather than through binoculars, but there are other pairs of eyes, such as Lloyd's and those of the customary team of observers. But Graveney is well aware of the potential shortcomings of the set-up. "I expect to do a lot of travelling," he said.

In the next 24 months England must negotiate Test series against Australia and South Africa at home and West Indies and Australia away, an unenviable schedule.

Graveney will continue to carry out his duties as general secretary of the Cricketers' Association, but at a salary reduced to take account of his pay from the England and Wales Cricket Board.

The potential conflict of interests — one that scuppered his chances of challenging Ray Illingworth's a year ago — has been removed by placing discipline of the England team in the hands of Bennett. Graveney's role firmly relates to selection, not management or coaching.

Graveney, 44, is the youngest chairman of selectors since Doug Insole 29 years ago and only the third since the Second World War to hold the post not having played Test cricket.



Graveney: chairman

Return of Davies gives Wales a lift

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THAT Jonathan Davies will return for one last fling against England tomorrow was nearly the silver lining around a heavy Wales cloud yesterday. Their team to play in Cardiff in the final round of the five nations' championship and the last international to be played at the Arms Park in its present form, suffered three body blows that weigh none the lighter even though they were expected.

Iwan Evans, the old magician on the wing, Scott Gibbs, the throbbing heart of the midfield and Colin Charvis, the promising flanker, all withdrew with injuries. Add these to the loss of Arwel Thomas and Mark Rowley and the scale of Wales's casualty list nearly rivals this season that of France.

Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, extolled the virtues of the squad system that allows him to call up such experienced replacements as Simon Hill and Nigel Davies at wing and centre, though he is less well-blessed at open-side flanker, where Kingsley Jones, of Ebbw Vale, will play. This is choice, since Gwyn Jones (Cardiff) is unfit too, and this is the area that Bowring admits is crucial to his team's style of play.

Jonathan Humphreys, the captain, said his players were buoyant going into the match. "We feel we have played some of the best rugby of the championship," Humphreys said. "But for six points we would have been looking at a grand slam."

No one is more buoyant than Jonathan Davies who, at 34, will play no more for

Wales after tomorrow — except in the World Cup sevens in Hong Kong next weekend and Bowring patently hopes he will turn his mind to coaching after his playing days are over. Yet Davies himself still nurtures the hope that he can throw down a final reminder to the British Isles selectors, whose party to tour South Africa will be announced on April 2.

"I'm going to enjoy the occasion and try my best in the Welsh jersey, as I always have," Davies, who will be winning his 32nd cap 12 years after his first — also against England — said. "I have been disappointed not to be picked during the five nations."

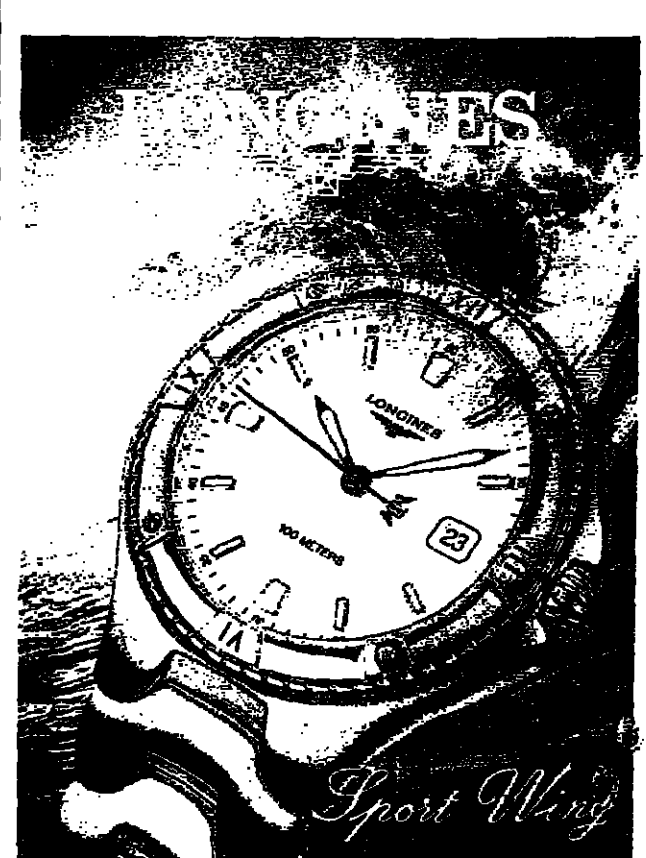
"I felt I should have come on against Ireland when things

Walton inspired 45

were not going so well. Maybe it is one last chance to get on that plane for South Africa."

Wales: N.R. Jenkins (Pontypridd); S.D. Hill (Cardiff); A.G. Baleman (Richmond); N.G. Davies (Llanelli); G. Thomas (Bristol); J. Davies (Cardiff); R. Hogg (Cardiff); S.D. Lloewer (Swansea); J.M. Humphreys (Cardiff); C. D. Young (Cardiff); S.M. Williams (Cardiff); S.G. Llewellyn (Merthyr); M.J. Vowles (Llanelli); K.P. Jones (Ebbw Vale); L.S. Quarmann (Richmond). Replacements: W.T. Prosser (Llanelli); P. John (Pontypridd); D.M.L. McIntosh (Pontypridd); J.C. Quarmann (Richmond); S.G. John (Llanelli); G.R. Jenkins (Swansea).

Alex Evans, the former Australia assistant coach who later coached Wales in the 1995 World Cup, is to return next month as director of rugby at Cardiff. He has agreed a four-year deal with the club, with whom he spent three years as coach, helping them to the league title and, in 1994, to the cup.

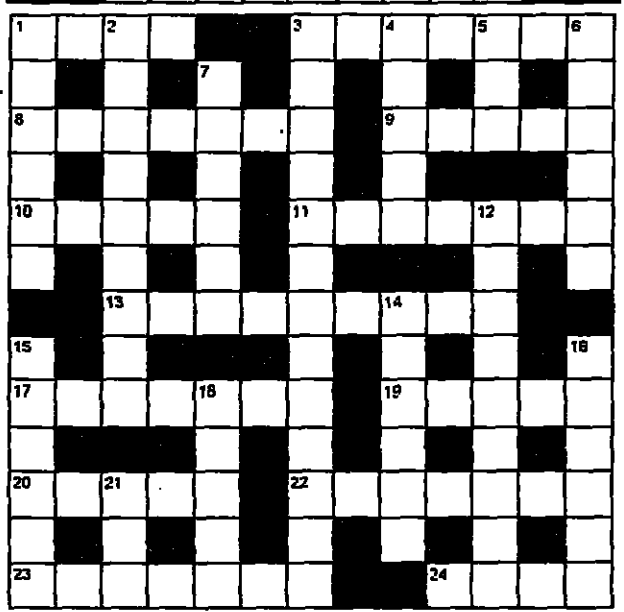


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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1041

ACROSS

- 1 Basin: asymmetrical ball (4)
- 2 Get to grips (7)
- 3 Organic manure (7)
- 4 Item of information (5)
- 5 Prospero's rightful Duke (5)
- 6 Beseech (7)
- 7 Unexpected winner (4,5)
- 8 Imputing worst motives (7)
- 9 Third-class: third-brightest (star) (5)
- 10 Subsequently (5)
- 11 Manlike creature (7)
- 12 Falsifying: ship's ropes etc. (7)
- 13 Funeral fire (4)

DOWN

- 1 Suit: turn into (6)
- 2 The tennis championships (9)
- 3 Act unrestrainedly (2,3,5,3)
- 4 Check of books (5)
- 5 House animal (3)
- 6 Hatred (6)
- 7 Furniture maker (6)
- 8 50-50 chance (4,5)
- 9 System of government (6)
- 10 Iced choux-pastry confection (6)
- 11 Deal with (6)
- 12 Short-legged Welsh dog (5)
- 13 Yank: sort of boat (3)

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